“The Finest Hours” is the remarkable true story of the greatest small boat rescue in Coast Guard history. On February 18, 1952, a massive nor’easter struck New England, pummeling towns along the Eastern seaboard and wreaking havoc on the ships caught in its deadly path, including the SS Pendleton, a T-2 oil tanker bound for Boston, which was literally ripped in half, trapping more than 30 sailors inside its rapidly-sinking stern.

As word of the disaster reached the U.S. Coast Guard station in Chatham, Massachusetts, a daring operation to rescue the stranded men was ordered. Despite overwhelming odds, four men, led by Coast Guard Captain Bernie Webber, set out in a wooden lifeboat with an ill-equipped engine and little, if any, means of navigation, facing frigid temperatures, 60-foot high waves and hurricane-force winds.

In 2016, Walt Disney Pictures released “The Finest Hours,” directed by Craig Gillespie and starring: Chris Pine; Casey Affleck; Ben Foster; Holliday Grainger; John Ortiz; and Eric Bana. Produced by Jim Whitaker and Massachusetts local Dorothy Aufiero, the film is based on the acclaimed non-fiction book of the same name by Massachusetts’ authors Casey Sherman and Michael J. Tougias.

MOVIE TRAILER LINK: YOUTUBE/BQMLLLWTQKU
US Coast Guard Heritage Museum
The Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the history of the United States Coast Guard and its predecessor organizations.
3353 MAIN ST, BARNSTABLE, MA 02630
GPS ADDRESS: 41.701222, -70.298983
(508) 362-8521 WWW.COASTGUARDHERITAGEMUSEUM.ORG
HOURS: MAY–OCTOBER, TUESDAY–SATURDAY, 10 AM–3 PM

Orleans Historical Society
Housed in an 1834 Greek Revival structure on the National Register of Historic Places, the museum’s collection includes genealogical information, diaries, deeds, period photos, local artwork, ships’ logs, Native American artifacts, special collections, and currently, a special exhibit on the CG36500 and the Pendleton Rescue.
3 RIVER ROAD, ORLEANS, MA 02653
GPS ADDRESS: 41.783407, -69.977581
(508) 240-1329 WWW.ORLEANSHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG
SUMMER HOURS: THURSDAY–SATURDAY, 10 AM–1 PM
OFF SEASON HOURS: SEPTEMBER–JUNE, TUESDAY–WEDNESDAY, 10 AM–12 PM AND 1 PM–4 PM

US Coast Guard Motor Life Boat Station Chatham/ Chatham Light
Located on the grounds of Coast Guard Station Chatham, Chatham Lighthouse, an active duty station, has a long and rich history and is available to tour on select dates, see below for more information.
37 MAIN ST, CHATHAM, MA 02633
GPS ADDRESS: 41.672196, -69.949836
(508) 945-0164 HTTP://A0131101.USCGAUX.INFO/
HOURS: FOR LIGHTHOUSE TOURS ONLY, MAY-JUNE AND SEPT-OCTOBER, EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY, 1 PM-3:30 PM
JULY–AUGUST, EVERY WEDNESDAY, 1 PM-3:30 PM

Coast Guard Rescue Boat: The CG36500
Motor Life Boat CG 36500, famous for its role in saving 31 men from the ill-fated tanker Pendleton off of Chatham in 1952, is the only operating survivor of its type on the East Coast and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Orleans Historical Society acquired the boat in 1981, and it has been carefully rebuilt and maintained by many dedicated volunteers.
SUMMER: MEMORIAL DAY–END OF SEPTEMBER
ROCK HARBOR, CAPE COD BAY, ORLEANS, MA 02653
GPS ADDRESS: 41.799590, -70.006998
WINTER: OCTOBER–MAY
NAUSET MARINE EAST - MARINA, 235 MAIN ST, ORLEANS, MA 02653
GPS ADDRESS: 41.784211, -69.964559
(508) 240-1329 WWW.CG36500.ORG