



## **Coast Guard Auxiliary Distinguished Service Medal**

### **Auxiliary Distinguished Service Medal Award – 2020**

The Auxiliary Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) recognizes Auxiliarists who distinguish themselves by contributing exceptionally meritorious and distinguished service to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Distinguished Service Award is only awarded by the Commandant.

The performance required to justify this award is exceptional performance of duty, which benefits the Auxiliary as a whole. This performance, therefore, must be clearly much higher than normally expected, and must have a measurable, positive effect on the entire organization. Normally this award will be given to elected and appointed officers for extraordinary achievement. This statement should not be interpreted so as to preclude the award to any Auxiliarist whose service meets the requirement.

The key words for this award are distinguished, operational, and exceptional meritorious service. To justify this award, exceptional performance of duty, clearly much higher than normally expected, which has resulted in significant benefit to the entire Auxiliary organization, is required.

### **This Year's Recipients are:**

**COMO Larry King** as Immediate Past National Commodore  
**COMO Susan A Davies** as Assistant National Commodore for Information Technology

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE AUXILIARY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL  
TO  
COMMODORE LARRY L. KING  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

Commodore KING is cited for exceptionally meritorious service to the Government of the United States in a position of great responsibility as National Commodore from November 2018 to October 2020. His strategic vision and emphasis on *Mission, Leadership, and Excellence*, inspired the Auxiliary to deliver superb support to the Coast Guard and Nation despite extraordinary challenges. He led the Commandant's multi-year AUXDATA information system modernization project to on-time and on-budget completion, yielding state-of-the-art software-as-a-service support to Auxiliary program management. Commodore KING coordinated the first service-wide gap analysis that garnered 100 percent participation by operational commands, identifying myriad opportunities to bridge resource shortfalls with Auxiliary assets. He navigated the Auxiliary to successful AUXSCOUT program implementation, markedly expanding maritime training and service prospects for teenage members of the Auxiliary and Sea Scouts. A consummate crisis response manager, his ardent advocacy to authorize mission activity paved the way for Auxiliarists to provide over 212,000 hours of Coast Guard support along with boundlessly compassionate help to Coast Guard families during the 35-day partial federal government shutdown as Commodore. Despite the unprecedented challenges and the far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, his inspirational leadership directly resulted in the Auxiliary's delivery of more than 4.8 million hours of operational and administrative support to Coast Guard missions, over 273,000 vessel examinations and marine dealer visits, more than 54,000 hours of public education, and over 665 lives and \$51 million in property saved. Commodore KING's leadership, dedication, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE AUXILIARY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL  
TO  
COMMODORE SUSAN A. DAVIES  
THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

**Commodore DAVIES is cited for exceptionally meritorious service to the Government of the United States in a position of great responsibility as Assistant National Commodore for Information Technology (ANACO-IT) from November 2018 to October 2020. She oversaw day-to-day management of the Auxiliary's national IT directorates and was in charge of providing dependable, high-quality IT services to the Auxiliary's 23,000 members, the Coast Guard, and the public. Commensurate with this daunting responsibility, she was the Auxiliary lead for the Coast Guard's \$11.4 million multi-year AUXDATA modernization project. This massive overhaul of the obsolete AUXDATA information system enabled the Coast Guard to accelerate into its future by setting new standards for information system development, procurement, and management. Working closely with a diverse project team of vendor representatives, IT project managers, the office of the Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX), and Auxiliary subject matter experts, she seamlessly synchronized their myriad activities on requirements definition, review, and user acceptance testing. Despite multiple challenges including the 35-day partial federal government shutdown and the unprecedented impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, she superbly guided her project shipmates to system delivery ahead of schedule and on budget. Her efforts were invaluable to blazing a new trail for the Coast Guard's strategic shift to software-as-a-service information system management. She also led national IT staff in handling over 5,500 help desk tickets, maintaining over 40 mission-critical systems in the Auxiliary IT portfolio, and resolving diverse cyber and IT interface issues. Commodore DAVIES' leadership, dedication, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.**