



## **Legion of Merit**

### **Auxiliary Legion of Merit Award – 2021**

The Auxiliary Legion of Merit (ALOM) is awarded for service comparable to the ADSM but in a duty of lesser, though considerable, responsibility. The Commandant or any Coast Guard Vice Admiral may award the ALOM. All ALOM packages must be submitted through the appropriate Auxiliary chain of leadership to NACO for review and approval. This applies prior to District review and subsequent routing of nominations to Area or Headquarters level.

In general, the ALOM will be awarded to Auxiliarists in leadership positions who have performed such exceptionally meritorious service as to justify the award of the ADSM, except as to degree of merit. Recognized performance must clearly be much higher than expected and have a measurable, positive effect on the Auxiliary across multiple Auxiliary regions or at Auxiliary Area or National level. This should not be interpreted to preclude the award of the ALOM to any Auxiliarist whose acts or services meet the requirements. When the degree of achievement or service rendered, although meritorious, is not sufficient to warrant award of the ALOM, the AMSM should be considered.

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

**COMO AGOSTINO FORMATO** as Vice National Commodore  
**COMO SUSAN A. DAVIES** as Assistant National Commodore, Information Technology  
**COMO DONALD A. ZINNER** as Executive Assistant, Auxiliary Training Program Management and as Auxiliary Safety System Program Advisor

**\*\* CITATIONS FOLLOW \*\***

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE AUXILIARY LEGION OF MERIT  
TO  
COMMODORE AGOSTINO FORMATO  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

**Commodore FORMATO is cited for outstanding meritorious service in the performance of duty as Vice National Commodore from November 2020 to August 2022. Responsible for effective management of 17 national program directorates and over 810 national staff members, Commodore FORMATO spearheaded several initiatives that greatly improved the Auxiliary's capacity to provide exceptional service to the Coast Guard and Nation. Despite expansive challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, he adeptly managed the Auxiliary's National Strategic Plan and ensured extensive collaboration between Auxiliary national program managers and their Coast Guard counterparts. Exercising superb leadership as Chair of the Auxiliary Uniform and Appearance Pilot Program Work Group, he guided Coast Guard and Auxiliary uniform experts in the design of a distinctive Auxiliary version of the Coast Guard Utility uniform, an entirely new Auxiliary Work Uniform, and comprehensive revision of Auxiliary uniform policies. His skillful coordination of sensitive uniform concerns enabled the Auxiliary to significantly improve its image and garner new, attractive, and affordable uniform alternatives. He also insightfully founded and promoted the Auxiliary Safety Advisory Group and the Auxiliary Chapter of the Women's Leadership Initiative with representation on the Leadership Diversity Advisory Counsel. As a direct result of his inspirational leadership, Auxiliarists delivered over 3.1 million hours of operational and administrative support to Coast Guard missions, over 168,000 vessel examinations and marine dealer visits, and over 510 lives and \$35 million in property saved that helped significantly reverse rising trends in recreational boating accidents and deaths. Commodore FORMATO's ability, diligence, 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 LEGION OF MERIT  
TO  
COMMODORE SUSAN A. DAVIES  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

**Commodore DAVIES is cited for outstanding meritorious service in the performance of duty as Assistant National Commodore, Information Technology from November 2020 to August 2022. Demonstrating exceptional leadership and managerial skill, she led the Auxiliary’s support of the AUXDATA II modernization project. She provided invaluable collaboration with the system vendor, Coast Guard project managers, the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, and Auxiliary system experts that yielded over 45 vital upgrades which significantly enhanced AUXDATA II as a comprehensive Auxiliary system of record. Keenly aware of the importance of cybersecurity, Commodore DAVIES oversaw a thorough cybersecurity risk assessment of the Auxiliary’s entire national web presence that identified over 50 technical, policy, procedural, and management improvement opportunities. She meticulously supervised implementation of an authentication service that enabled industry-standard protocols for enhanced password security requirements Auxiliary-wide. Astutely concluding that the Auxiliary’s aging “My CGAux” web portal was no longer cost-effective, she oversaw its contract termination which yielded annual cost savings of \$49,000. Exercising sharp insight and a penchant for customer service, she created an AUXDATA II resources website with more than 50 “How To” guides, videos, and instructions that greatly improved system user satisfaction and proficiency. She similarly supervised establishment of a second AUXDATA II User Help Desk manned by Auxiliary subject matter experts which provided timely resolution of thousands of annual help tickets and reduced the costly escalation of service requests to the system vendor by more than 22 percent in one year. Commodore DAVIES’ ability, diligence, 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 LEGION OF MERIT  
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

**TO**

**COMMODORE DONALD A. ZINNER**

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

**Commodore ZINNER is cited for outstanding meritorious service as Executive Assistant for Auxiliary Training Program Management to the Chief Director of Auxiliary (CG-BSX) from November 2020 to August 2022 and as the Auxiliary Safety System Program Advisor for the Coast Guard Safety Program Management Division (CG-1131) from November 2020 to December 2021. Demonstrating outstanding vision and mastery of Auxiliary operational programs, he skillfully guided the Auxiliary Training Program as Executive Assistant to the Chief Director of Auxiliary and provided invaluable coverage as the CG-BSX training manager during the position's nearly year-long vacancy. He coordinated 17 different Auxiliary C-schools, supervised their lead instructors, managed over \$1.8 million in training funds, and forged strong working relationships with the Coast Guard Force Readiness Command and the Education and Training Quota Management Command. Applying exemplary commitment to service, Commodore ZINNER designed and implemented novel virtual options for Auxiliary training during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a direct result of his superb leadership, the Auxiliary convened more than 60 classes that trained over 1,200 Auxiliary leaders, operators, and program managers. Working closely with CG-1131, he founded a comprehensive Auxiliary Safety Management System. He developed dynamic leadership strategies and informative training materials that increased successful implementation of key concepts and fostered a pronounced safety culture across the Auxiliary. Profoundly dedicated, he performed over 4,300 hours of Auxiliary program support in the course of delivering this outstanding service. Commodore ZINNER's ability, diligence, 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.**