



Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal

Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal Award – 2021

The Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) is awarded to Auxiliarists who have contributed exceptional meritorious service to the Coast Guard and/or Auxiliary. Auxiliarists who serve in any capacity within the Auxiliary are eligible. The Auxiliary MSM may be awarded by any Flag officer. The meritorious performance of duty must have enhanced Auxiliary goals.

This performance must clearly be of a nature much higher than that normally expected, and which has a significant positive effect on the ability of the Coast Guard and/or the Auxiliary to complete its missions and goals. For this award, the key words are outstanding and meritorious service worthy of special recognition, which contributes significantly to fulfillment of Auxiliary goals at the local level.

This Year's Recipients are:

COMO LARRY L. KING as Immediate Past National Commodore

COMO GARY P. BARTH as Deputy National Commodore, Atlantic Area (East) and Recreational Boating Safety

COMO LINDA MERRYMAN as Deputy National Commodore, Information Technology and Planning

COMO MARY L. KIRKWOOD as Deputy National Commodore, Pacific Area and Operations

COMO THOMAS J. MULLALLY as Deputy National Commodore, Atlantic Area (West) and Mission Support

COMO ROBERT O. BRUCE as Assistant National Commodore, Chief Financial Officer

COMO DOUGLAS S. CREAM as Assistant National Commodore, Chief Counsel

**** CITATIONS FOLLOW ****

COMO PETER K. JENSEN as Assistant National Commodore, Performance and Student Programs

COMO GREGORY B. KESTER as Assistant National Commodore, FORCECOM

COMO ROBERT M. LAURER as Assistant National Commodore, Recreational Boating

COMO DAVID G. PORTER as Assistant National Commodore, Diversity

COMO FREDERICK G. SAUNDERS, JR. as Assistant National Commodore, Response and Prevention

ROY SAVOCA as Director, Response

TERRY BARTH as Executive Assistant to the National Commodore

RICHARD F. MIHALCIK as Special Advisor to the National Commodore

JENNIFER L. STACK as Chief Director of Auxiliary Executive Assistant for Training Program Administration

BRUCE J. KELTON as Deputy Chief Counsel

JEANNE C. SUCHODOLSKI as Assistant Chief Counsel for the Pacific Area

JONATHAN M. AHLBRAND as Division Chief, Advanced Learning Management

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AUXILIARY MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A FOURTH)**

TO

COMMODORE LARRY L. KING

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore KING is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Immediate Past National Commodore from November 2020 to August 2022. He exercised astute foresight, outstanding leadership, and a mastery of Auxiliary programs and processes in providing invaluable advice and counsel to the National Commodore and the National Executive Committee. An integral member of the Auxiliary Uniform and Appearance Work Group, he shepherded execution of an extensive 15-month pilot program to test and assess wide-ranging policy changes along with design of the Auxiliary version of the new Coast Guard Utility and a brand new Auxiliary Work Uniform. His unparalleled experience as an Operational Auxiliarist (AUXOP) and Qualification Examiner were invaluable to the AUXOP Work Group's assessment of the program's impacts on Auxiliary training, membership, and recognition. His tireless work with the Auxiliary Chaplain Support and Auxiliary Scout programs significantly increased their participant counts and activity levels. A consummate shipmate, his management of the Auxiliary's first-ever virtual live national elections brought on by COVID-19 challenges set the standard for successful conduct of thousands of subsequent virtual Auxiliary elections. Commodore KING's 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 MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

TO

COMMODORE GARY P. BARTH

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore BARTH is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Deputy National Commodore, Atlantic Area (East) and Recreational Boating Safety from November 2020 to August 2022. Demonstrating exceptional leadership, Commodore BARTH oversaw all Auxiliary operations and activities throughout the five Atlantic Area (East) districts and ensured that all district Operational Plans were aligned with the National Commodore's Strategic Plan. He maintained oversight of the three Recreational Boating Safety Directorates: Vessel Examination/Partner Visitation, Public Education, and Recreational Boating Safety Outreach. He worked closely with directorate leadership to quickly and innovatively develop virtual options for delivery of public education courses and vessel safety checks to the boating public that resolved COVID-19 pandemic challenges. As a direct result of his inspirational leadership, Auxiliarists delivered over 1.6 million hours of operational and administrative support to Coast Guard missions, over 108,000 vessel examinations and marine dealer visits, and over 305 lives and \$7 million in property saved that helped significantly reverse rising trends in recreational boating accidents and deaths. Commodore BARTH's 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 MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A FIFTH)**

TO

COMMODORE LINDA M. MERRYMAN

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore MERRYMAN is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Deputy National Commodore, Information Technology and Planning from November 2020 to August 2022. Demonstrating exceptional leadership, Commodore MERRYMAN oversaw the operation of all Auxiliary information systems and worked tirelessly to develop, monitor, and refine the National Commodore's Strategic Plan. She maintained oversight of the Student Programs, Performance Measurement, Computer Software and Systems, and User Support and Services Directorates. Exercising unparalleled technical expertise, Commodore MERRYMAN supported over 40 information systems and supervised the ongoing AUXDATA II modernization through more than 45 upgrade and enhancement cycles. She supervised development and revision of vital training tools including the AUX-10 Information Services C-school course which markedly improved the capabilities of Information Services Staff Officers at all organizational levels. She also produced the annual "Value of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary" report which provided Coast Guard leadership with profound understanding of the Coast Guard's remarkable return on investment in its uniformed volunteers. Commodore MERRYMAN's 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.

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(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

TO

COMMODORE MARY L. KIRKWOOD

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore KIRKWOOD is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Deputy National Commodore, Pacific Area and Operations from November 2020 to August 2022. Demonstrating exceptional leadership, Commodore KIRKWOOD oversaw all Auxiliary operations and activities throughout the five Pacific Area districts and ensured that all district Operational Plans were aligned with the National Commodore's Strategic Plan. She maintained oversight of the four Operations Directorates: Prevention, Response, International Affairs, and Emergency Management and Disaster Response. Exercising superlative administrative and operational expertise, Commodore KIRKWOOD significantly improved policies, practices, and training among Auxiliary operators. She oversaw comprehensive revision of 10 Auxiliary Marine Safety Personal Qualification Standards and five accompanying study guides. As a direct result of her inspirational leadership, Auxiliarists delivered over 700,000 hours of operational and administrative support to Coast Guard missions, over 23,000 vessel examinations and marine dealer visits, and over 100 lives and \$20 million in property saved that helped significantly reverse rising trends in recreational boating accidents and deaths. Commodore KIRKWOOD's 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.

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(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

TO

COMMODORE THOMAS J. MULLALLY

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore MULLALLY is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Deputy National Commodore, Atlantic Area (West) and Mission Support from November 2020 to August 2022. Demonstrating exceptional leadership, Commodore MULLALLY oversaw all Auxiliary operations and activities throughout the six Atlantic Area (West) districts and ensured that all district Operational Plans were aligned with the National Commodore's Strategic Plan. He maintained oversight of the three Mission Support Directorates: Human Resources, Public Affairs, and Training. Applying keen insight and exceptional initiative, he resolved challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring innovative tools were developed and provided to Auxiliary units to perform electronic monthly meetings, virtual training and conference events, and national planning meetings. As a direct result of his inspirational leadership, Auxiliarists delivered over 700,000 hours of operational and administrative support to Coast Guard missions, over 36,000 vessel examinations and marine dealer visits, and over 100 lives and \$7 million in property saved that helped significantly reverse rising trends in recreational boating accidents and deaths. Commodore MULLALLY's 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.

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TO

COMMODORE ROBERT O. BRUCE

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore BRUCE is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Assistant National Commodore, Chief Financial Officer from November 2020 to August 2022. Demonstrating exceptional leadership and financial management expertise, he co-chaired the Auxiliary Financial Controls Work Group chartered by the Chief Director of Auxiliary. He meticulously researched and developed incisive financial controls tailored to the Auxiliary organization. Commodore BRUCE fortified existing policies by instituting prudent administrative and accounting practices like two-person integrity, practical application of electronic notification systems, and a thorough four-step approval process for all expenses. As a direct outcome of his steadfast efforts, the resultant Auxiliary Financial Controls Standard Operating Procedures provided Auxiliary flotillas, divisions, and districts with clear standards and procedures that ensured standardized and secure Auxiliary financial management. He also adeptly crafted the Auxiliary's national 2021 and 2022 operating budgets, and worked closely with the Coast Guard Auxiliary Association, Inc. (AuxA) Chief Financial Officer to develop new policies and procedures that safeguarded Auxiliary funds at the national level. Commodore BRUCE's 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 MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
(SILVER STAR IN LIEU OF A SIXTH)**

TO

COMMODORE DOUGLAS S. CREAM

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore CREAM is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Assistant National Commodore, Chief Counsel from November 2020 to August 2022. Commodore CREAM exercised astute foresight, outstanding leadership, and a mastery of Auxiliary-related laws, regulations, and policies as he advised the National Commodore, Vice National Commodore, and the National Executive Committee. He drafted dozens of Auxiliary-wide leadership messages for the National Commodore that provided vital guidance to all Auxiliarists about activities and missions they could perform and how to safely do so during the COVID-19 pandemic. He facilitated and encouraged collaboration and cooperation between Auxiliary District Legal/Parliamentarian Staff Officers and the Staff Judge Advocates nationwide, and dramatically improved coordination and communication between Coast Guard and Auxiliary legal officers. Applying superb insight and attention to detail, he drafted a comprehensive Memorandum of Agreement between the Auxiliary and the National Safe Boating Council that garnered both organizations' commitment to the promotion and advancement of the National Safe Boating Week and the International Boating and Water Safety Summit. Commodore CREAM's dedication and devotion to duty are heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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TO

COMMODORE PETER K. JENSEN

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore JENSEN is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Assistant National Commodore, Performance and Student Programs from November 2020 to August 2022. Exercising superb leadership and managerial skill, Commodore JENSEN coordinated the major consolidation of the Auxiliary University and Sea Scout Programs into the new Student Programs Directorate. He insightfully focused Auxiliary engagement on common needs of young members, facilitated development of well-trained contingents of future leaders, and significantly strengthened the relationship between Coast Guard Recruiting Command and the Auxiliary. He supervised comprehensive revision of the Auxiliary University Program of Study that yielded updated classes and expanded engagement opportunities for technical school and graduate students. Applying keen insight and attention to detail, he established thorough analyzation protocols for data in AUXDATA II that were used to produce high-quality monthly reports of relevant metrics and trends relied upon throughout the organization. A consummate advocate, he ensured that Coast Guard Academy selection boards were briefed on the strong potential and capabilities of Auxiliary University Program participants. Commodore JENSEN's 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.

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(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A THIRD)**

TO

**COMMODORE GREGORY B. KESTER
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

Commodore KESTER is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Assistant National Commodore, FORCECOM from November 2020 to August 2022. Commodore KESTER deftly supervised the Auxiliary's Public Affairs, Human Resources, and Training Directorates. Exercising keen programmatic insight and technical skill, he oversaw the meticulous planning and implementation of Moodle for online classroom instruction, adaptation of the Auxiliary Mid-Level Officer and Upper-Level Officer Courses into virtual Zoom versions, and conversion of the Auxiliary Leadership and Management course to a virtual platform. He shepherded significant expansion of Auxiliary Health Services, Chaplain Support, and Culinary Assistant activities despite considerable limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. He astutely managed publication of two *Navigator* magazine editions and six *Navigator Express* issues, supervised careful restoration of the Auxiliary Applicant Management System in the wake of a potential data breach, and coordinated design and delivery of an innovative and attractive brochure specifically aimed to recruit parents and relatives of Training Center Cape May graduates. Commodore KESTER's 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.

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TO

COMMODORE ROBERT M. LAURER

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore LAURER is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Assistant National Commodore, Recreational Boating from November 2020 to November 2022. Demonstrating exceptional leadership, Commodore LAURER deftly supervised the Auxiliary's Vessel Examination, Public Education, and Recreational Boating Safety Outreach Directorates. With broad vision and focused drive, he guided implementation of innovative methods that promoted and improved boating safety through virtual education and outreach practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. He instituted practical procedures that ensured Auxiliarists' safety and that of the boating public in the course of in-person vessel safety checks, partner visits, and boating safety classes. Commodore LAURER insightfully launched initiatives like virtual vessel safety checks and new certification procedures for Auxiliary paddle craft operators and instructors. He oversaw publication of the *RBS Job 1* magazine, a detailed and attractive periodical that provided Auxiliarists with comprehensive information to share with the boating public. His steadfast commitment helped significantly reverse rising trends in recreational boating accidents and deaths. Commodore LAURER's 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.

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TO

COMMODORE DAVID G. PORTER

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore PORTER is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Assistant National Commodore, Diversity from November 2020 to August 2022. Demonstrating superb program insight and advocacy, Commodore PORTER oversaw comprehensive revision of the National Commodore's (NACO) Three-Star Diversity Award program. He enthusiastically instructed key Diversity and Inclusion seminars at all Auxiliary Mid-level Officer and Upper-level Officer courses. Working closely with the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety and other national directorates, he secured the addition of four FEMA courses to AUXDATA II that increased Auxiliarists' professional development opportunities in the practice of diversity and inclusion. He authored numerous articles about diversity and inclusion which were featured in the *Navigator* and *Navigator Express* magazines. As a direct result of his profound commitment to the Coast Guard's transformation of its Total Workforce, the Auxiliary's Diversity Staff Officer cadre significantly increased, and 385 NACO Three-Star Diversity Award applications were received for 2021 which enabled the Auxiliary to achieve its strategic goal of 40 percent participation two years ahead of schedule. Commodore PORTER's 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.

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TO

COMMODORE FREDERICK G. SAUNDERS, JR.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Commodore SAUNDERS is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Assistant National Commodore, Response and Prevention from August 2021 to August 2022. Commodore SAUNDERS deftly supervised the Auxiliary's Prevention, Response, International Affairs, and Emergency Management and Disaster Response Directorates. Prior to the 2021 hurricane season, he ensured inclusion of vital Geographic Information Data in the Auxiliary's SITREP dashboard which greatly enhanced the quality of disaster response information for operational commanders. He skillfully arranged Auxiliary support of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center's groundbreaking efforts to apply machine learning in search-and-rescue case execution including a team of 60 Auxiliarists that annotated more than 6,500 maritime video clips. Displaying unparalleled commitment to service, Commodore SAUNDERS rapidly supervised activation of the Incident Management Auxiliary Coordination Cell and adeptly coordinated the Auxiliary response to Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection requests for assistance at the U.S. Southwest border in which dozens of Auxiliarists delivered over 5,000 hours of critical humanitarian support. Commodore SAUNDERS' 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.

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
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TO

MR. ROY SAVOCA

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Mr. SAVOCA is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty while serving as Director, Response from November 2020 to August 2022. Mr. SAVOCA deftly supervised four national divisions responsible for the Auxiliary's expansive array of air, surface, and telecommunications programs, as well as all associated training and qualification processes. Exercising keen programmatic insight and technical skill in support of the National Executive Committee and the Office of Auxiliary and Boating Safety, he established protocols that mitigated effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on operational programs while concurrently preserving the safety and security of Auxiliary crews. He designed attractive and innovative air, surface, and telecommunications workshops that kept Auxiliary operators certified and aware of COVID-19 risk mitigation practices. Displaying extraordinary interagency teamwork, he arranged Auxiliary support of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center's groundbreaking efforts to apply machine learning in search-and-rescue case execution. He marshaled a team of 60 Auxiliarists that meticulously reviewed and annotated over 6,500 maritime video clips to facilitate automated system identification of surface targets in a maritime environment. Mr. SAVOCA's 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 MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A THIRD)**

TO

MS. TERESA A. BARTH

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Ms. BARTH is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Executive Assistant to the National Commodore from November 2020 to August 2022. Exercising consistently exceptional diplomacy and attention to detail, she ensured that all communications and coordination issues among the Auxiliary's National Executive Committee (NEXCOM) members and Coast Guard Headquarters staff were promptly and professionally resolved. Her scrupulous planning skills greatly facilitated the NEXCOM's navigation of the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. She spearheaded the NEXCOM's arrangements for four major Auxiliary national conferences, coordinated over 50 video conferences, and crafted detailed notes from every meeting that comprised the Auxiliary's historical business record. She meticulously maintained a comprehensive administrative task list that provided the NEXCOM with an invaluable compendium of reports, award programs, and travel and logistic responsibilities to steer its agenda. Her superb social and diplomatic acumen was instrumental to the sustainment of the NEXCOM's good will and strong partnership with the Coast Guard's Flag Officer corps, the Auxiliary's boating safety counterparts, and its international colleagues. Ms. BARTH's 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
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TO

MR. RICHARD F. MIHALCIK

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Mr. MIHALCIK is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Special Advisor to the National Commodore from November 2020 to August 2022. Applying superb teamwork and technical skill, Mr. MIHALCIK worked closely with the Coast Guard Office of Investigations to deliver vital support to the Coast Guard Mariner Credentialing Fraud Task Force. He astutely assembled and led a team of Auxiliarists with prior and current law enforcement investigative experience to support Coast Guard personnel in identifying and locating individuals who were evading the Mariner Fraud Task Force. He similarly worked with the Auxiliary Chief Counsel to assemble and manage a team of highly-qualified Auxiliary attorneys that thoroughly reviewed evidence, documents and pleadings for the Task Force. Spanning the entire United States and multiple continents, his diligent efforts were instrumental to successfully locating 100 percent of the missing mariners who held fraudulent credentials. Exercising astute foresight and mastery of Auxiliary program management, Mr. MIHALCIK also spearheaded development of the Auxiliary's trail-blazing Administrative Services Group comprised of two new Document Management and Administrative Investigations Directorates. Mr. MIHALCIK's 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
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TO

MS. JENNIFER L. STACK

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Ms. STACK is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty while serving as Chief Director of Auxiliary Executive Assistant for Training Program Administration from November 2020 to August 2022. She was integral to the continuity of training operations in light of a year-long vacancy in the Chief Director's training manager position. Exhibiting exceptional leadership, Ms. STACK coordinated 18 Auxiliary C-schools and taught numerous courses in Aviation Crew Resource Management, Spatial Disorientation, and District Flight Safety Officer functions. A consummate teammate, Ms. STACK worked tirelessly to develop course material and training syllabi, help instructors train students, and effectively coordinate dozens of courses and hundreds of travel orders with the Coast Guard Education and Training Quota Management Command. She meticulously monitored COVID-19 pandemic trends around all Auxiliary C-school venues and ensured classes adhered to established protocols to mitigate risks. As a direct result of her steadfast and conscientious efforts, Auxiliary leaders, crews, and program participants received timely, safe, and secure C-school training despite the persistent challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. STACK's 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 MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

TO

MR. BRUCE J. KELTON

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Mr. KELTON is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Deputy Chief Counsel from November 2020 to August 2022. Demonstrating superlative legal and programmatic expertise, Mr. KELTON skillfully assisted the Auxiliary Chief Counsel, assiduously mentored the Auxiliary's Assistant Chief Counsels, and incisively counseled the Auxiliary's 16 District Legal/Parliamentarian Staff Officers. His close collaboration with these communities in response to complex and sensitive issues were critical to ensuring high-quality and timely counsel was provided to District Commodores and District Directors of Auxiliary. He assisted across a wide swath of concerns including boating safety partner agreements, international affairs, personal and institutional liability, assignment to duty issues, and disciplinary proceedings. Leveraging his vast experience and superior legal acumen, Mr. KELTON provided exceptional guidance to Auxiliary districts concerning negotiations with vendors for district training conferences. His counsel was instrumental to enabling those districts to appropriately cancel events without financial penalty when required to do so as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby preserving valuable resources for all Auxiliarists. Mr. KELTON's 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
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(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

TO

MS. JEANNE C. SUCHODOLSKI

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Ms. SUCHODOLSKI is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Assistant Chief Counsel for the Pacific Area from November 2020 to August 2022 and as Assistant Chief Counsel for Intellectual Property from January 2021 to August 2022. As Pacific Area Assistant Chief Counsel, she meticulously researched U.S. Codes, federal regulations, and Commandant instructions to provide comprehensive guidance to Auxiliary leaders, their counselors, and District Directors of Auxiliary across five Auxiliary districts. She was instrumental to resolution of myriad concerns including boating safety partner agreements, international affairs, assignment to duty issues, and disciplinary proceedings. As Assistant Chief Counsel for Intellectual Property, her incisive counsel facilitated compliance with the intricacies of the Copyright Act and ensured avoidance of potential liability. Leveraging her vast experience and superior legal acumen, she provided exceptional guidance to Auxiliary districts concerning negotiations with vendors for district training conferences. She was instrumental in enabling them to appropriately cancel events without financial penalty when required to do so as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, thereby preserving valuable resources for all Auxiliarists. Ms. SUCHODOLSKI's 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 MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
TO
MR. JONATHAN M. AHLBRAND
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

Mr. AHLBRAND is cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty as Division Chief, Advanced Learning Management from November 2020 to August 2022. Mr. AHLBRAND applied exceptional organizational and leadership skills in collaboration with the Auxiliary Computer Software and Systems Directorate's (C-Directorate) to develop and implement an updated national Auxiliary Moodle training platform. Demonstrating superlative partnership and teamwork, he rapidly developed a procedure for active duty Coast Guard personnel to be verified in the Member Zone of the Auxiliary national website. This enhancement greatly streamlined their Moodle account creation and removed the need for manual entries to be made on their behalf. Profoundly committed to improving system service levels for Auxiliarists, Mr. AHLBRAND worked closely with the C-Directorate to ensure course completions, including pivotal Auxiliary Core Training data, were automatically entered into the AUXDATA II information system. His ingenuity and technical capability were instrumental in creating the Auxiliary's new Blood-borne Pathogen course materials and the transition of the AUX-04 Auxiliary Distance Learning C-school into an asynchronous online course. Mr. AHLBRAND's 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.