



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

### **Auxiliary Distinguished Service Medal Award – 2024**

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 Recipient is:**

**COMO AGOSTINO FORMATO, JR.** as National Commodore

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

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE AUXILIARY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL  
TO  
COMMODORE AGOSTINO FORMATO, JR.  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

**Commodore FORMATO is cited for exceptionally meritorious service to the Government of the United States in a position of great responsibility as National Commodore from November 2022 to August 2024. His strategic vision revolved around his watchwords of *Integrity, Inclusion, and Inspire* and delivered impressive and significantly impactful Auxiliary support with mindful consideration as COVID-19 limitations were relaxed. Demonstrating superb operational expertise, he coordinated major Auxiliary support of Operation Vigilant Sentry including interpreters who helped overcome language barriers, chaplains who provided vital religious ministry support, and aviators who flew over one hundred missions to ensure operational commanders maintained a clear situational picture. Exercising keen insight and concern for the welfare of Coast Guard units, he oversaw a comprehensive gap analysis that garnered 100 percent participation of Coast Guard operational commands. This yielded a detailed and accurately prioritized array of Coast Guard unit needs which appropriately focused Coast Guard and Auxiliary unit engagement on bridging resource shortfalls with Auxiliary assets. Recognizing the need and opportunities for organizational improvement, he established two new Auxiliary national directorates focused on investigative and document management administration and created a new Auxiliary cybersecurity directorate to support Coast Guard Cyber Command. His inspirational leadership directly resulted in more than 3.5 million hours of Auxiliary operational and administrative support to Coast Guard missions, over 202,000 vessel examinations and marine dealer visits, and over 100 lives and \$11 million in property saved. Commodore FORMATO'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.**

