



United States Coast Guard
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

11 JUL 2019
FM: CHDIRAUX
TO: ALAUX
ALAUX 009/19

SUBJ: 2018 AUXILIARIST OF THE YEAR

1. Auxiliarist Alison G. Blind of Flotilla 31-4, Ninth District Western Region has been recognized as the 2018 Auxiliarist of the Year. The following ALCOAST recently announced Auxiliarist Blind's selection. Honorable mention was earned by Mr. Michael A. Barth, Flotilla 5-11, First District Southern Region. Congratulations to Auxiliarist Blind and all nominees!

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TO ALCOAST
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SUBJ: 2018 AUXILIARIST OF THE YEAR

1. I am pleased to announce the selection of Auxiliarist Alison G. Blind of Ninth District-Western Region Flotilla 31-4 in Holland, Michigan as the 2018 Auxiliarist of the Year.

2. An Auxiliarist since April 1997, Auxiliarist Blind has consistently exercised extraordinary support of Coast Guard marine safety, environmental protection, and recreational boating safety (RBS) missions. She coordinated a diverse array of activities that significantly advanced public awareness and overall welfare of the marine environment. She arranged Auxiliary support of more than a dozen major regional marine invasive species events that educated over 5,750 recreational boaters and performed over 300 recreational vessel checks. This included Auxiliary leadership in Michigan's Clean Boats – Clean Waters and Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz programs as well as the Grand Rapids Boat Show, Earth Day in East

Lansing, and National Night Out in Holland, Michigan. She forged strong partnerships between the Auxiliary and Michigan State University, the Michigan Sea Grant program, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and the North American Lake Management Society.

3. Devoted to improving youth water safety, she developed and implemented a hands-on program that met Michigan core curriculum criteria and which was used to teach boating safety to elementary school students. She designed and built associated educational tools, and then trained other Auxiliarists who taught the program to nearly 300 students.

4. Committed to Coast Guard service, she also found the time to deliver over 195 hours as an Auxiliary coxswain and perform more than 95 vessel safety checks and program visits.

5. I applaud Auxiliarist Blind's service to nation, duty to people, and commitment to excellence. She will be formally recognized as the 2018 Auxiliarist of the Year at the Auxiliary National Convention in Orlando, FL on August 24, 2019.

6. Auxiliarist Michael A. Barth of First District – Southern Region Flotilla 5-11 in Upper Manhattan, New York is recognized with honorable mention and congratulated for his outstanding performance and achievement.

7. RDML Richard Timme, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, sends.

8. Internet release is authorized.