

The Lake Murray News

CELEBRATING
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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 installs 2016 leadership

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray installed 2016 leadership at a Change of Watch formal ceremony with U.S. Coast Guard leaders, members and guests on November 30.

Capt. Gary Tomasulo, Commander at Coast Guard Sector Charleston, and Justin Longval, Chief Boatswain's Senior Chief (BMCS), Coast Guard Station

Charleston, conducted the swearing in oath of office for the 2016 flotilla leadership at the ceremony. Lake Murray Coast Guard Auxiliary 2016 elected leadership positions are Festus Burchfield, Flotilla Commander, and Scott Iverson, Vice Commander. Burchfield, a retired commercial airline pilot, led the flotilla as Commander in 2014 and 2015. Iverson

is Battalion Chief for the City of Fayetteville, North Carolina, Fire / Emergency Management and lives in Elgin, South Carolina with his family.

In support of Auxiliary flotilla leadership, staff officer appointments are Calvin Bowen, Communications; Barbara Burchfield, Communication Services

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•Flotilla

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(website), Finance and Publications; Stephen Pstrak, Diversity; Festus Burchfield, Human Resource and Operations; Michael Mikutaitis, Information Systems and Materials; Eric Starmer, Marine Safety; Allen Crothers, Member Training; Roger Deaton, Navigation Systems, Billy Lindsay, Public Affairs; Scott Iverson, Public Education; Robert Falsetti, Recreational Boating Safety Program Visitation; Lucy Wingard, Secretary and John Mezynski, Vessel Examiners. Appointments for Special Projects are Kenny Uschelbec, Russ Jernigan and Billy Lindsay.

Capt. Tomasulo and BMCS Longval presented Coast Guard Auxiliary Achievement Medal to Festus Burchfield and Barbara Burchfield. The citation recog-

nizes their superior performance of duty from October 2009 through June 2015 while serving as State Liaison Officers for South Carolina.

Long time Auxiliary member Gerald Ruschkofski was presented a congressional letter and certificate by Butch Wallace, District Director from the office of South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson, to honor his 35 years of service in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The change-of-watch ceremony is a time-honored event preserved by military tradition. It is a formal custom that is designed to transfer command responsibility. The Auxiliary is the volunteer, non-military component of the U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, tasked with many of the same operational missions as the Coast Guard. Learn more about Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray at www.uscgaux-lakemurray.com.