



December 20, 2017

Lake Murray U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliarist chosen for Inspirational Leadership Award



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Commodore Jay Dahlgren (left) and Commodore Robert Weskerna (right) presented Festus Burchfield with the Donald L. Frasch Inspirational Leadership Award for his exceptional leadership as Flotilla Commander at Lake Murray Flotilla 12-3 during 2016. The Auxiliary Commendation Medal and Citation accompanied the award to Burchfield at the unit's Change of Watch ceremony on November 30, 2017 in Chapin.

Local Lexington resident Festus Burchfield was honored as the recipient of the Donald L. Frasch Inspirational Leadership Award on November 30, 2017 at the U.S. Coast Guard Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray Change of Watch ceremonies in Chapin.

Burchfield received the Auxiliary Commendation Medal and Citation that accompanied the award, presented by U.S. Coast Auxiliary Commodores Robert Weskerna and Jay Dahlgren. Weskerna and Dahlgren are the only District 7 Commodores from South Carolina to ever serve in that leadership capacity.

The Citation noted Burchfield's outstanding achievements and exemplary leadership skills while leading the Lake Murray flotilla to positive gains in

membership, organizational structure, mission performance and community outreach programs. Burchfield was commended for his service as a coxswain, participating in many of the most challenging patrols, assisting mariners in need, and testing numerous crews and coxswains in his role as Qualifying Examiner. A strong advocate for boating safety, he partnered and participated in safety patrols and public outreach with numerous local organizations in the community. Burchfield's dedication, judgment and devotion to duty were heartily commended and cited as in keeping with the highest traditions of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.

This is just the second Inspirational Leadership Award ever presented in the district, made possible with a grant endowment from the late National Commodore Donald L. Frasch. Burchfield was selected from 103 Auxiliary units in the district, which covers South Carolina, George, Florida, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Burchfield was also awarded the Auxiliary Letter of Commendation, signed by U.S. Coast Guard Sector Charleston Commander, for his two-year service as Flotilla Commander at Lake Murray from January 2015 through December 2016.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the uniformed civilian, volunteer component of Team Coast Guard assists the active duty Coast Guard in all of its varied missions, except for military and direct law enforcement. These men and women can be found on the nation's waterways, in the air, in classrooms and on the dock, performing Maritime Domain Awareness patrols, safety patrols, vessel safety checks and public education.

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