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AFRAS Silver Award 2012

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AUXILIARISTS

Ronald Johnson, Dennis
Szerba, Jim Mauk, Bill
Gerdsen and Fred Jilinek
UNITED STATES COAST
GUARD AUXILIARY

For heroic actions and service as specified in the following citation where Coast Guard Auxiliarists Ronald Johnson, Dennis Szerba, Jim Mauk, Bill Gerdsen and Fred Jilinek are cited for outstanding operation skill as demonstrated on June 30th, 2011 while serving onboard Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel 25371. While underway conducting man overboard training, the Auxiliary crew noticed a small boat they had just passed with two people on board was now circling and the woman on board was attempting to summon them by frantically waving her hands. The small boat's operator next to the woman was slumped over the helm in obvious medical distress. Auxiliarist Johnson, serving as coxswain, sprang into action and skillfully maneuvered the Auxiliary vessel alongside the out-of-control small boat to get it under control and further assess the situation. Once alongside, Auxiliarist Jilinek and Gerdsen boarded the boat and immediately determined the operator was in cardiac arrest. They quickly commenced Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) while Auxiliarist Johnson, Mauk and Szeba rigged the small boat for alongside tow and coordinated additional assistance with Coast Guard Station Emerald Isle and local Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The Auxiliary team continued CPR as they towed the small boat towards shore while the station dispatched one of its rescue boats to assist. Upon rendezvousing with the Auxiliary vessel, the Station and Auxiliary team continued all attempts to revive the boater. Once at the station pier, the rescue team successfully employed and Automatic Emergency Defibrillator restarting the boater's heart. The boater was stabilized and transferred to local EMS. Through their efforts, quick action and skill, these outstanding Auxiliary team members helped to prevent a pleasant day of boating from turning into a tragic loss of life. The fast action and awareness of the crew of Auxiliary Vessel 25371 proved critical in saving the boater's life and resulted in his full recovery from the events of that June afternoon. The diligence, perseverance, and devotion to duty displayed by Auxiliarists Ronald Johnson, Dennis Szerba, Jim Mauk, Bill Gerdsen and Fred Jilinek are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary. The Association for Rescue at Sea Silver Medal is authorized.

AFRAS is a 501(c)3 charity and is registered in the State of New York