

Citation for
The Association for Rescue at Sea
Silver Medal Award
To United States Coast Guard Auxiliarists:

Alfred J. Verdi
John P. Durrer
Lori A. Barfield

For heroic actions and service as specified in the following citation where the crew of Coast Guard Auxiliary facility Adesso II saved seven persons, including two children aboard a 22-foot Bayliner deck boat from serious and life-threatening conditions after their pleasure craft lost power near the jetty rocks off of Pier J in Los Angeles Harbor on Sunday, 2 July 2023. Auxiliary facility Adesso II was on patrol when the crew received an initial mayday distress call from a small aluminum 17-foot fishing skiff with two male fishermen aboard, stating a pleasure craft was crashing into the jetty rocks at Pier J. Located adjacent to the Los Angeles Light (Queens Gate), Pier J is exposed to open ocean. Demonstrating impeccable judgment, the coxswain of Adesso II immediately diverted to assist the Bayliner. The distressed pleasure craft had lost power and was helplessly adrift in 3-foot chop and 10-15 knots of westerly wind, blowing them directly onto the rock jetty. Arriving on scene, Adesso II crewmembers witnessed the fishing skiff crew handling a 10-foot line, held on the other end by the distressed pleasure craft's owner. The Adesso II coxswain Auxiliarist Verdi advised them to release the line to prevent them from getting pulled into the rough water due to the immense tension on the line. Coxswain Verdi carefully maneuvered Adesso II next to the Bayliner while both vessels were pitching and rolling from the backwash off the jetty. To further complicate matters, the owner of the distressed pleasure craft sustained serious lacerations to his legs and feet from attempts to keep the boat from the sharp rocks that extended from the jetty. The adults on board the Bayliner were not wearing lifejackets and the vessel had no anchor or rode, dock lines, or radio to assist. Adesso II crewmember Auxiliarist Barfield quickly threw a tow line to the pleasure craft, and break-in crewmember Auxiliarist Durrer tended the slack in the tow line until the other end was safely secured to the pleasure craft's bow cleat. Once complete, the Adesso II crew showcased their exemplary seamanship skills by relocating all persons to a safe mooring location during the tow of the disabled vessel that was in grave danger of capsizing near the jetty. As the on-scene weather conditions continued to deteriorate, and wind gusts exceeded 20 knots with seas topping three feet, the actions of the Adesso II's crew saved the lives of everyone onboard. The prompt action and effective response of Adesso II during this life-threatening situation ensured the safety of all individuals onboard the Bayliner and that of the fishing skiff.

The professional actions of the coxswain and crew of Adesso II reflect greatly upon the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The crew was instrumental in avoiding life threatening injuries, and skillfully saved lives and property that day.