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# News Release

## **U.S. COAST GUARD COMMANDER, U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR PUGET SOUND RECOGNIZES ALAN G. SMITH AS SECTOR PUGET SOUND AUXILIARIST OF THE YEAR FOR 2019**

PORT ANGELES, WA – On February 18, 2020, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary member, Alan G. Smith, of Sequim, was congratulated by USCG Captain Linda A. Sturgis, Commander Sector Puget Sound, on his selection as the Sector Puget Sound Auxiliarist of the Year for 2019. Captain Sturgis presented Smith with a USCG Sector Puget Sound citation, plaque, and challenge coin to reflect his accomplishments, dedication, and commitment to the U.S. Coast Guard. The presentation and recognition was made during the monthly meeting at USCG Sector Puget Sound Headquarters.

USCG Captain Michael M. Balding, Deputy Commander Sector Puget Sound, presented highlights of Smith's activities for 2019 to Smith, his family members present, and other USCG and USCG Auxiliary members in attendance. Captain Balding stated the recognition of Smith is a reflection of Smith's astounding performance, dedication to the U.S. Coast Guard, and service to the community.

Captain Balding continued with his recognition of Smith, stating that as a member of USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 44 in Port Angeles, he volunteered 207 hours, executed eight Vessel Safety Exams, one Coast Guard Facility Exam, and over 34 hours in public outreach. Smith integrated seamlessly with the active duty community in Port Angeles, and participated in a litany of

projects, including the Continuity Of Operations (COOP) Tsunami Preparedness Drill.

Captain Balding stated, “You, Mr. Smith, were the first member of Division 4 to certify as an Auxiliary Food Services Specialist (AUXFS) and you eagerly volunteered to augment the Culinary Specialists on board the USCG Cutter Active during its four day deployment for SeaFair 2019.”

Captain Balding spoke of Smith’s display of consistent devotion to duty, and being first in Division 4 to certify as Junior Officer of the Day (JOOD) at USCG Air Station Port Angeles. Smith was applauded for consistently volunteering for extra shifts, particularly during holiday routines allowing active duty personnel to spend more time with their families, for advocating an ongoing initiative to “adopt” the grounds at USCG Air Station Port Angeles’ flag pole area where he leads Flotilla 44 in regular maintenance, and for his participation in the morning and evening flag raising and lowering ceremonies.

Captain Sturgis and Captain Balding congratulated Smith and each echoed, “Thank you for everything you do as a representative of the United States Coast Guard.” Smith’s name will appear on a perpetual plaque maintained and displayed at the USCG Sector Puget Sound Headquarters.

During the recognition, Captain Sturgis enthusiastically welcomed, and introduced Smith’s wife Maxine, his son Christopher, and his daughter Amanda.

*The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information, please visit [www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)*

Note: Photographs will also be sent as separate attachments in email.



PORT ANGELES, Washington – U.S. Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound Commander Captain Sturgis with a proud Alan Smith family: L-R Captain Sturgis, Amanda, Alan, Maxine, and Christopher. USCG Auxiliary Photo by Kent Brown



PORT ANGELES, Washington – U.S. Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound Commander Captain Sturgis holds the letter citation, and Alan Smith displays his new plaque. USCG Auxiliary Photo by Kent Brown

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