

COAST GUARD AVIATION ASSOCIATION



The Association President

IN RECOGNITION of notable services that have greatly contributed to the preservation of the history and culture of Coast Guard Aviation takes pleasure in presenting the

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

to

Ms. Sandra L. Shofner

September 22, 2021

Michael D. Emerson
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard (Retired)
President

President's Award

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The President of the Coast Guard Aviation Association (CGAA) takes pleasure in presenting the President's Award to Ms. Sandra Shofner, in recognition of her exceptional and enduring advocacy for Coast Guard Aviation. As a Coast Guard Auxiliarist and Administrator for a CGAA group page on Facebook, Ms. Shofner had unique access to emergent operational priorities, and a distinct role in sharing information to promote aviation accomplishments, and document noteworthy milestones. Ms. Shofner has been an active member of the Coast Guard Air Auxiliary since 2003, flying Search and Rescue and Law Enforcement patrols throughout the Florida Straits and the Caribbean. Operating from Air Station Miami, Florida, Ms. Shofner has saved or assisted numerous lives, and supported dozens of drug and migrant interdiction cases. During the last 18 years, her operational missions featured the recovery of stolen property, criminal arrests, VIP transports, logistics support, and aerial reconnaissance. Ms. Shofner became a Life Member of the Ancient Order of the Pterodactyls in 2012, and readily volunteered to help administer the CGAA group page on Facebook. Ms. Shofner made a name for herself early on by mining key information from other groups, and posting it to Association members, helping the page-founder increase membership almost exponentially. She tirelessly contributed any positive stories and images that she could find from unit pages worldwide (air stations, small boat stations, surface vessels, groups, sectors, civilians, and news media), highlighting the valor of Coast Guard aviators, and the challenges they experienced in conducting successful flight missions. Ms. Shofner was continuously motivated by the lack of coverage and awareness of the aviation accomplishments, and the associated value and relevance to national security. Improving that narrative was her personal mandate. She sought to recount the hard work and nerve that goes into flying missions and showcased the hazards, outcomes, and impacts to every American. She also promoted the service and sacrifices of Coast Guard and Auxiliary crewmembers, to characterize the incredible return on investment the Coast Guard provides. Ms. Shofner was especially adept at spotlighting extraordinary men and women of Coast Guard Aviation, celebrating their achievements by spot-lighting career accomplishments and career milestones, including promotions, advancements, qualifications, certifications, graduations, and retirements. Through her social media efforts, Ms. Shofner facilitated boundless connections among shipmates, and fostered immeasurable esprit de corps among her followers and the aviation community that she served. Ms. Shofner administered our group page for 9 years and set impeccable standards of decency for content and conduct. She has been an impassioned ambassador for CGAA and reflected extreme pride in Coast Guard aviation. On her own initiative, she represented our organization in social media on a daily basis. Her efforts increased public visibility, inspired followers, and helped preserve our legacy. Ms. Shofner's initiative, dedication and leadership are most heartily commended, and in keeping with the highest traditions of the Aviation Association and the United States Coast Guard.