From: Robert Bonnem, Flotilla Commander

To: Sam Walker, Division Commander

Subj: MAXIM AWARD NOMINATION

**A. The following background information is provided as per instruction in Maxim Award Nomination Procedures**

1. Name: Cono ‘Buddy’ Casale, EMPLID 1192554

2. Unit: 070-11-10

3. Region: Atlantic East

***Nomination for COMO Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education***

**Nominee:** Cono ‘Buddy’ Casale, EMPLID # 1192554

**Unit:** 070-11-10

**Date of Enrollment**: 26 FEB 2002

**Name of Spouse:** Susan Casale

**Personal Information:**

Born 07 Feb 1940, in Brooklyn N.Y. fourth child, known as Buddy, of Cono & Vera Casale. Siblings, Anita, Vera, and Irene. 15 Aunt’s & Uncle’s on Father’s side and 5 on Mother’s side. 1951 left Brooklyn for Bay Shore, Long Island. Graduated High School in 1957. Served in US Air Force, Airman, Crash Rescue at Rhein-Main AF Base, Frankfurt, Germany. Employed at LI Lighting Co from 1961-1999. Raised 4 Children, Vera, Cono III, Jon & Theresa. Married Susan L. in 1982 ( known as “Suzy1”, CG Auxiliary surface vessel 211110554 known as” Suzy2”) helped raise 3 Stepchildren, Annette, Tom, Heather. Became known as the “Brady Bunch”. 2001 Left LI for Delightful Dunedin Florida. 2002 joined the CG Auxiliary. 2021, Susan & I are Blessed, enjoying 17 Grand Children & 13 Great Grand Children.

It is my great honor and privilege to nominate Mr. Cono ‘Buddy’ Casale for the COMO Daniel Maxim Award for Excellence in Education. The following information outlines his qualifications, experience, and reasoning for the nomination. Mr. Casale has been a member of the Dunedin, Florida Flotilla (070-11-10) since 26 FEB 2002. He currently serves as the Flotilla Staff Officer for Public Education and has done so since early 2000. Mr. Casale has long exemplified a level of commitment to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.

In addition to serving the Flotilla, he served as:

* District level Staff Officer for Public Education from 2007-2008.
* Instructor AUXSCE Sep 2008 (Search Coordination & Execution)
* FSO-VE (Flotilla Staff Officer Vessel Examiner) from 2006 to 2008
* FSO-PV (Flotilla Staff Officer Program Visitor ) from 2006 to 2011
* SO-PV (Division Staff Officer Program Visitor) from 2008 to 2011.

**Narrative:**

**Appearance: Nominee presents an impeccable appearance with proper and sharp uniform wear.**

Mr. Cono ‘Buddy’ Casale consistently and reliably represents the Coast Guard Auxiliary dress code appropriately whether he is attending a Flotilla meeting, teaching a safe boating course, working with operations, or conducting a vessel check. He dresses according to specifications of the event. His Operational Dress Uniform (ODU), Tropical Blues are clean, pressed and include the correct inclusion, arrangement and display of name tape, insignia ribbons, badges, and devices. He wears the appropriate cover or cap according to expectation of event. His appearance is always professional and in alignment with the requirements of the Coast Guard Auxiliary dress code.

**Courses Taught by the Nominee in both PE and MT:**

Mr. Cono ‘Buddy’ Casale is fully qualified, has almost twenty years of experience with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. He has spent endless hours preparing for and conducting lessons. He works tirelessly to support public education. Not only has he taught the following courses with Dunedin Flotilla (070-11-10), but he has also trained instructors to do the same.

Member Training (MT):

* Auxiliary Search Coordination and Execution (AUXSC&E)
* Boat Crew Training – Assistant Instructor
* Operations Excellence (OE) - Assistant Instructor

Public Education (PE)

* Boating Skills & Seamanship (BS&S)
* Boat Smart
* About Boating Safely (ABS)
* Boat America (BA)
* Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation

Mr. Casale is qualified to instruct up to thirteen courses for either Public Education (PE) or Member Training (MT). His experience spans several areas to include boat safety, vessel examination, navigation, and operations.

Additional training includes:

* Boat Crew
* Coxswain
* OE (Operations Excellence)
* Boating Skills and Seamanship
* Advanced Coastal Navigation Part A
* Aid to Navigation Verifier
* Watchstander
* Vessel Examiner
* RBSV (Recreational Boating Safety Visitor)
* IDC(Instructor Development Course)
* ICS Courses: ICS100, ICS 200, ICS 210, ICS 700, ICS 800.

Mr. Casale is a well-trained, well versed, and highly experienced member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. His talents and expertise are an asset to recognize. Mr. Casale is highly respected by others and in turn fellow members step up to assist with instruction in response to his encouragement.

**Instructor Material: ability to adapt to local needs by adding or adjusting prepackaged content.**

While Mr. Casale is astute in using the resources provided by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, he also is talented in identifying when there is a need to explain or add to the information to suit the audience and/or location of boating. During such courses related to teaching boat safety to local mariners whether new or slightly experienced, Mr. Casale makes comparisons to the local area to various materials either presented in the handbooks or the PowerPoints. This could be as simple as addressing our Florida Law, Intercoastal waterways and average low tides as compared to inland waterways and deeper waters. He is knowledgeable of the local boat ramps and shares information with students related to docking, trailering and laws.

Mr. Casale identified a need to develop a less lengthy course that did not require the purchase of a book. In collaboration with fellow Auxiliarists from the Dunedin Flotilla, he and fellow auxiliarists designed and created an *Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation Seminar* and presented to several High School and middle school Algebra Students within the Clearwater and Dunedin, Florida Area. This course has since been incorporated as a seminar into the Public Education schedule for Flotilla 11-10. Mr. Casale attributes the suggestions, support and creativity from fellow Instructors as to how this seminar was made possible. However, he was the inspiration to make it happen. This seminar is intended to assist boaters in obtaining information for safe boating at a less expensive registration fee and less taxing amount of time spent in the classroom. For the students, this course integrated math skills for calculating distance, rate and time with reference to chart information of latitude, longitude, compass readings true and magnetic readings while at the same time disseminating safe boating seeds of information. For students, this is an interactive hands-on learning opportunity for a two-hour event. This year, the course was conducted via zoom from the office of Mr. Casale to the Dunedin High School classrooms. Over three hundred students has experienced this course since its inception in 2017.

Now that we are in the Covid approach to learning online, Buddy quickly acquired the skills to teach using Zoom. In addition, he encouraged his instructors to join him in the learning journey and practice offering courses online. Several classes have taken place via Zoom and continue.

**Training Aids**

Cono ‘Buddy’ Casale is fully trained, highly experienced, and able to conduct any of the boat safety courses independent of the supporting educational resources to include the instructor manuals and PowerPoints and handbooks. He has experience with vessel inspections and operations in addition to public education in boat safety. Although the instructional materials are adhered to as required by the Coast Guard Auxiliary training expectations, Mr. Casale has taught the public and instructors so many times that he is able to deliver the information without always resorting to reading the material as he is teaching. This talent allows him to make connections with the students and toss about informal conversation making the students comfortable to ask questions and be vulnerable in admitting when they do not understand.

Mr. Casale’s innate talent to assess the needs of the public and make predictions about future boaters led him to initiate the development of two new courses. One course modified led to the development of the other. This course was mentioned earlier in this nomination referred to as an *Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation Seminar*. Originally, the course was developed geared toward secondary school students titled Navigation for Kids. This course was modified and improved to become an *Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation Seminar*. This allowed for a reduction of hours in the classroom or online yet educate the public about Boat Safety and Navigation.

Mr. Casale is approachable, humble and a natural leader. He actualizes and elevates the talents of others while in turn allowing others to critique his work and ideas. These qualities generate effective and engaging instructional materials. An example is the *Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation Seminar* course. He embraced the intellectual input of his colleagues in order to develop the course.

 **Training aids used help understanding of concepts by students**

Mr. Casale creatively uses updated instructional platforms and approaches. He creates instructional demonstration video excerpts to integrate into PowerPoints in order to provide visual support in understanding what is depicted in picture and word. This is especially helpful to better understand challenging concepts especially related to navigation. Demonstration of use of charts, dividers, parallel rulers and distance and location scales for measuring longitude, latitude and distance.

Hands-on resource for classroom use includes knot tying stands, hand-made wooden vessels such as power boats, sail boats, buoy and beacon ATONS. These help students better understand topics such as stand-on and give-way vessels. The use of the ATONS helps with understanding red-right-return and the difference between intercoastal waterways and other waterways. Mr. Casale utilizes props made by his granddaughter, Sarah. This demonstrates that Auxiliary is much a part of his life as his family is.

For public education events, Mr. Casale designed and built a game for the public to identify various objects that obstruct mariners and marine life. Mr. Casale is a natural at knowing when students would benefit from a hands-on or video demonstration experience. In the times of Covid, the video exemplars are very necessary.

**Command of the classroom environment to facilitate learning and avoid distractions**

 Command of the classroom is the area Mr. Casale is a natural. His ability to connect with all people is truly a gift. He uses humor to set the stage of the classroom, yet he delivers the material in a way that makes it clear the information is important. He continuously reiterates most important concepts especially those that would affect someone legally. Mr. Casale invites fellow instructors to join him in the classroom so that there is always someone present to help, answer questions or clarify what is shared. This command transcends to the online platform of Zoom as well. Mr. Casale is comfortable in front of the camera, or at least appears comfortable. In addition, his communication style through the microphone and camera makes one feel as if they are physically in the classroom with him. He continues to interact and respond to the needs of the students.

**Engage students and hold their attention to avoid instruction becoming boring**

Another area that Mr. Casale excels in is engaging with the students either in the classroom or online. He is gifted in interactions with both adults and youth during classes offered through the classroom, online or in the school. He uses humor, probing questions and personal experiences to make the learning experience fun and interesting. Students are both comfortable in presence and curious to know more with the approaches that Mr. Casale uses.

**Inspire students to learn more and to take additional training.**

Most people who take one of Mr. Casale’s public education boating skills courses end up taking the next level. Several times, students who took a few courses with him also find interest in joining the Dunedin Flotilla. We all know how much fun boating is, Mr. Casale makes boating safely a safety and fellowship opportunity. His enthusiasm is infectious.

**Development of new or innovative ways of teaching.**

This topic has been detailed in prior areas of this nomination. Not only does he see needs for varying types of courses such as he collaborated to develop the *Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation Seminar,* but he also finds ways to engage students with varying approaches to deliver the content.

Over the past year, Mr. Casale took it upon himself to learn how to use Zoom and deliver instruction by attending a neighboring Flotilla’s training. Once he learned how to, he then offered training for his instructors. The class Boat America Safe Boating is being conducted virtually by several instructors due to the initiatives of Mr. Casale. As mentioned earlier in this nomination, he also delivered the *Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation Seminar* to the Dunedin High School students via Zoom.

**Role model and mentor to less experienced Instructors.**

This is Mr. Casale’s golden ticket. His servant leadership is apparent in the way he reaches out to newly developing instructors. Most of the time, he is the one who influenced someone to try becoming an instructor. He follows up with inviting new instructors to observe his courses as well as assist until they are ready to take a section of a course themselves. He encourages instructors to continue training in other areas of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. His abilities, professional and personal demeanor encourage all to continue to improve their skills in instruction. Mr. Casale offers to show new instructors where to find information through the Coast Guard Auxiliary website and makes sure they are fully equipped with the relevant handbooks and PowerPoints. He never gives up keeping his instructors in the loop, active and engaged.

**Qualifications to Mention**

* AUXSCE
* AV
* MDV
* MANTR
* VE
* WS

**Awards to Mention**

* AUX OPS EXCELLENCE
* AUX OPS PROGRAM RIBBON
* OPERATIONAL MERIT
* CG MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION
* PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION
* RBS DEVICE
* TRANSPORTATION 9-11 RIBBON
* AUX COMMANDANT LETTER(2)
* SPECIAL OPS SERVICE RIBBON(2)
* AUX MEMBERSHIP SERVICE(3)
* CG UNIT COMMENDATION(4)
* CG MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION(9)
* AUX OPRNS SERVICE(10)
* AUX PE SERVICE(10)
* SUSTAINED AUX SERVICE(11)
* AUX VE/MDV SERVICE(15)

**Feedback by class participants:**

A high percentage of positive remarks as documented by monthly PE reports are documented below. The following comments are provided from evaluations of the years 2016-2020 from courses and seminars provided by CG AUXILIARY FLOTILLA 11-10. PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM to include: About Boating Safely, Boating Skills and Seamanship, Boat America, Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation Seminar.

* Courses, highly informative, helpful, plentiful information, understandable especially Federal and Florida law.
* In addition to mandatory core chapters taught and very much appreciated is the addition of VFH FM Marine radio operation explained and demonstrated also a short presentation explaining Florida local weather including Tropical storms, Hurricanes, understanding cloud formations and recognizing approaching bad weather and Nautical knot tying.
* Instructors, Knowledgeable, Professional, Entertaining, Personal Boating experience and local knowledge. Enjoyed chapters presented by different Instructors.
* Chapters enjoyed the most: Legal Requirements Federal and Local, Navigating the water ways including ATONS and Launching and docking a vessel.
* Introduction to Basic Coastal Navigation Seminar: All Students enjoyed the opportunity to plot a navigation course on a nautical chart and determine time, speed and distance.
* Novice and experienced boaters enjoyed the exercise.
* Intro to Navigation ( Nav4Kids ) Evaluations Presented to High School Algebra

 Students

* Students: Overall favorable, enjoyable interesting fun and challenging.
* Instructors were helpful, informative.
* High School Teachers Remarks: Overall Interesting, more time with step-by-step instructions and Latitude and Longitude. Student participation about right,
* Instructors: Passionate and a pleasure.
* a statement from Jules Moquin D-7 ADSO-PE, D-7 DSO-PE, “Wow what an outstanding effort and way to work with 8th graders” “my Congratulations to those involved. It’s events like this that make all the difference in the world.”

**Comments by fellow Auxiliarists:**

* Comment by Walter Murray: “Buddy's son and my nephew were friends up in NY. When I decided to retire and settle down in Florida my nephew suggested I get in touch with Buddy since I was bringing a boat down with me and Buddy was involved with the Auxiliary teaching safe boating. I had no knowledge at all of the Auxiliary, but I did sign up for a boating class and Buddy introduced me to the Coast Guard Auxiliary. That was 15 years ago. Buddy became my mentor and eventually my best friend. He mentored me through crew training and public education etc. I eventually became a staff officer with the Flotilla and eventually with the Division.
* Comment by Judy Deeley: I met Buddy at an “About Boat Safety” course. I was a new boat own at the time and really enjoyed the course. I was especially interested in the navigation portion and went on to take the next more advanced course in order to spend more time in learning about how to navigate. I found a connection to math that I thought would interest my students. I invited the Flotilla to come to my school to share with students. Buddy was a hit with the middle school students. That is truly a feat for any adult to capture the attention of young minds. His ability to communicate at their level, keep them curious and teach them how to navigate was truly amazing. He and his instructor team did a great job. Buddy influenced me to join the Flotilla. I have served in the capacity of instructor, Flotilla and Division officer positions. I attribute my interest to Buddy’s public passion about what the Auxiliary offers the community. Another aspect of Buddy is his devotion to his family and the evident love his family has for him. What a joy to witness someone having fun with children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. I am better for knowing Buddy.
* Comment by Ralph Caridad: On being fairly new to the Flotilla, Buddy was extremely welcoming. I would expect nothing else from a fellow New Yawkah (New Yorker)! Professionally, Buddy has taken the time out recently to sit with me and review the steps necessary to begin my experience as an instructor. He sat with me and went over the steps in detail making sure I was comfortable to begin the process and never leaving one step out. He realized my enthusiasm for helping and he knew exactly how to react. His instruction to this point has been invaluable. Buddy was always that familiar face, never having met him before.
* Comment by Joan Gutek:  I have not had Buddy as a classroom instructor but he was my first instructor when I started training for boat crew.  He was very patient and easy to train with which I can't say about all of my trainers.  I always tried to sign up for Buddy's boat first.
* Comment by Gordon Thomas: Buddy has worked so hard in the education program on so many fronts. He persists in finding ways to increase our student numbers. He took the bull by the horns when we had to go to zoom meetings and learned how to use the zoom program. He runs the program himself for four nights every month and due to lack of instructor numbers, he also teaches many of the chapters over and over again.  It takes an enormous amount of man hours to prepare and sign people up for this as well. Of course, he has worked with you on the navigation program and student classes as well.