



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL**

**TO**

**DAVID GARMAN  
AVIONICS ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer GARMAN is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as flight mechanic aboard Coast Guard helicopter CG6538 on 13 August 2016. At 0644 hours, his crew launched to rescue a family trapped by excessive flooding in the Baton Rouge, LA area. Enroute, he diligently identified obstacles as they navigated through heavy rain, 1/2 mile visibility and 200 foot ceilings. Once on scene, he prepared for hoisting operations and conned the helicopter into position, hoisting survivors away from swift currents and downed power lines. During a subsequent rescue involving children, Petty Officer GARMAN used hand signals to direct a Good Samaritan in a raft towards a trapped family, avoiding a challenging hoist in heavy foliage. After refueling the aircraft, Petty Officer GARMAN continued hoisting victims, through trees and power lines, with pinpoint accuracy. With only nine minutes of fuel remaining on the final sortie and approaching fatigue limits, he conducted a final rescue of victims trapped in a home battered by raging currents. He safely hoisted the victims and departed the area, physically carrying non-ambulatory survivors to medical personnel at the airport. Petty Officer GARMAN's actions and skill were instrumental in the rescue of 66 flood victims. Petty Officer GARMAN's dedication, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.