



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

**TO**

**EUGENE J. BATKIEWICZ  
AVIATION MACHINIST MATE THIRD CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer BATKIEWICZ is cited for outstanding performance on 04 September 1951, while serving as a crew member aboard a Coast Guard helicopter engaged in rendering assistance to an Air Force pilot whose plane had collided with another plane in midair off the coast of Newburyport Mass. As the pilot bailed out of his damaged plane and drifted toward the ocean, the helicopter's emergency flotation was inflated, and the helicopter landed in the water near the pilot. Seeing that the Air Force pilot was helpless, the Coast Guard pilot dove into the water to affect the rescue. Meanwhile, the helicopter was drifting downwind and BATKIEWICZ, displaying outstanding skill, took over the controls and maneuvered the helicopter back to the two men, where he assisted in bringing both aboard. BATKIEWICZ'S initiative, courage, and unwavering devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.