



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

TO

**HUGH E. KATES
AVIATION MACHINIST MATE SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer KATES is cited for outstanding performance on 30 May 1951, when he went to the assistance of a young woman who had been sighted floating face down in the heavy surf off Ocean Beach, San Francisco. KATES was serving as a crew member aboard a Coast Guard helicopter, which had been dispatched to the scene, when the young woman was sighted. Realizing that she was beyond self-help, KATES donned the rescue harness and was lowered by the hoist into the surf. After some difficulty, and although severely buffeted by the heavy seas, KATES was able to grasp the victim and hold her while they were towed to the beach by helicopter. KATES' initiative, courage, and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.