



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

**TO**

**ERNEST KNOWLES, JR.  
AVIATION ELECTRONICSMAN THIRD CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer KNOWLES is cited for outstanding performance on 20 July 1951, while serving as a crew member aboard a Coast Guard plane engaged in removing a seriously ill man from the ship Swedish "Joh Gorthon". The plane rendezvoused with the "Joh Gorthon" at sea and landed alongside. When heavy seas made it necessary to affect the transfer of the patient from the ship's boat to the plane by means of a rubber life raft, Knowles unhesitatingly volunteered to man the raft in order to safeguard the patient during the transit. This raft sank when the keel of the plane fell on it, ripping it open. Knowles was pulled back aboard the plane and immediately volunteered to man a second raft. By Knowles' careful tending to the raft's safety lines, the patient was swiftly and safely transported to the plane through seas which at times reached a height of 14 feet. Knowles then assisted in rigging the JATO bottles; a JATO take-off was executed, and the patient transported to shore for hospitalization. Knowles initiative, courage, and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.