



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

**TO**

**JAMES M. TIERNEY, JR.  
PARACHUTE RIGGER FIRST CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer TIERNEY is cited for outstanding performance on 11 April 1952, while serving as a crew member of a Coast Guard PBY-5AG plane engaged in rescuing survivors of a Pan American DC-4 plane which had ditched in the Atlantic Ocean, with 69 persons aboard, shortly after takeoff from San Juan, P. R. The plane landed near the survivors and a rubber life raft with TIERNEY at the oars, was launched. Despite the difficulty of heavy seas and strong winds, he skillfully maneuvered the raft in shark infested waters and succeeded in rescuing two survivors. TIERNEY continued to search until he and the survivors were picked up by the plane and transported to shore. TIERNEY's initiative, courage and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

