



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE
MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL
(POSTHUMOUS AWARD)**

TO

**DAVID L. SKIMIN
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer SKIMIN is posthumously cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty while serving as Rescue Swimmer and Night Check Supervisor at Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, Hawaii, from June 2005 to September 2008, and for 16 years of faithful service to a grateful nation. Accumulating over 1,200 hours of flight time at three different aviation units, Petty Officer SKIMIN participated in 31 search and rescue cases and personally completed 21 rescues. Arriving as a qualified Flight Mechanic and Emergency Medical Technician with experience forged from years of operating in the world's most challenging waters from the icy Bering Sea to the expansive Pacific Ocean, Petty Officer SKIMIN was selected for Rescue Swimmer Instructor designation. Known as a subject matter expert, his evaluations and mentorship of fellow rescue swimmers was instrumental to the unit receiving the 2007 Coast Guard Standardization Excellence Award, an honor that is coveted fleet-wide. When the master of the M/V CARMEN suffered a severe reaction to his prescription medications while the vessel was over 100 miles offshore, Petty Officer SKIMIN quickly treated, prepared, and ensured a safe hoist of the patient, minimizing time on scene during this fuel-critical evolution. He then carefully attended to the patient during the long transit flight back to the nearest urgent care facility. Showing dedication and compassion to his fellow shipmates, Petty Officer SKIMIN served as the Command Drug and Alcohol Representative and the Command Financial Counselor, providing crucial assistance to over 600 service members throughout Oahu. Petty Officer SKIMIN's dedication 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.