



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

TO

**NICHOLAS A. KEENAN
AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer KEENAN is cited for outstanding achievement on 14 January 2023 while serving as the duty flight mechanic aboard CGNR 6566 during the rescue of seven crewmen onboard the disabled 95-foot tugboat LEGACY. Located 35 nautical miles offshore Ocean City, Maryland, the crew of CGNR 6566 prepared for nighttime hoisting in 12-foot seas, 30-knot winds, and 20-degree windchill. Demonstrating superb initiative, Petty Officer KEENAN and crew thoroughly discussed hoisting techniques and crew coordination for the dynamic high seas environment. On-scene, LEGACY was beam-to 12-foot swells that were breaking over the deck. Petty Officer KEENAN and crew recognized multiple snag hazards where the survivors were located but identified a grated platform on the stern of the vessel for hoisting. Demonstrating flawless crew coordination and flexibility, Petty Officer KEENAN adapted each hoist as the rescue swimmer adjusted for the safest hoisting location. Petty Officer KEENAN demonstrated necessary assertiveness when the third survivor attempted to jump out of the basket before being brought into the cabin. Petty Officer KEENAN swiftly forced the basket inside and ensured the safe recovery of the survivor. Petty Officer KEENAN directly employed the heavy weather techniques learned during the transit and executed seamless basket recoveries in dynamic nighttime conditions, saving three lives. Petty Officer KEENAN's dedication, judgement, 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.