



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE  
SILVER LIFESAVING MEDAL**

**TO**

**SCOTT D. MOCHKATEL  
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN FIRST CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer MOCHKATEL is cited for heroic action on the evening of 27 January 2022, when he rescued a woman from the turbulent and rocky waters outside the Bay of San Juan, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Petty Officer MOCHKATEL was on an off-duty training run on Paseo de la Princesa, a pathway along the waterline at the base of El Morro, a historic Spanish fort. While reaching the highest vantage point of his run, he noticed a crowd yelling at two persons in the water in obvious distress, erratically fighting to stay afloat. Without hesitation, Petty Officer MOCHKATEL assessed the situation, leaped off the running path, traversed 75 feet below over jagged rocks, and entered the turbulent waters making a line towards the two thrashing persons in the water. Swimming 100 feet against an incoming tide and strong currents, he managed to reach the pair, quickly latching onto both. Upon noticing the water had overcome the male, he focused his remaining strength to rescue the female. She violently fought against him to stay afloat, attempting to climb atop him, risking drowning them both. He called upon his rescue swimmer training to gain control of the situation, effectively putting her in a rescue hold. After regaining composure, he swam back to the coast, carefully maneuvering in the strong current and submerged rocks. Exhausted upon reaching the riprap, he pulled the female up and began first aid, keeping her awake and instructing bystanders to assist. With the aid of two Good Samaritans, she was carried 75 feet over large boulders to the pathway where he continued to provide medical assistance and call for help. Realizing his job was not complete, he continued to work with Sector San Juan for assistance in recovering the male's body. He expertly vectored in the Station San Juan small boat while also relaying information through the Command Center to the assisting police helicopter to locate the drifting male body. Petty Officer MOCHKATEL's heroic actions and determination resulted in a life saved. His unselfish actions and valiant service reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of humanitarian service.