



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE
MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL**

TO

**BRIAN E. LAUBENSTEIN
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer LAUBENSTEIN is cited for meritorious service in performance of duty on 17 October 2009 while serving as Rescue Swimmer aboard CG 6540 during the rescue of three survivors of a capsized recreational vessel in Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana. Reported overdue, the small vessel had overturned in the Lake's heavy, wind-driven chop over nine hours before CG 6540 arrived on-scene. During the second assigned search, Petty Officer LAUBENSTEIN alertly spotted one of the survivors waving, directed the helicopter into position, and quickly deployed into the water. He then expertly triaged the three survivors, which included a father and his two sons. Determining the five-year-old son was unresponsive with no vital signs, Petty Officer LAUBENSTEIN adeptly decided to hoist the severely hypothermic father and the boy, opting for rescue of the teen-aged son by a nearby surface asset. Recently trained in pediatric CPR, Petty Officer LAUBENSTEIN began specific resuscitation techniques and rescue breathing on the five-year old boy while in the water. After the hoist of the two, Petty Officer LAUBENSTEIN cradled the boy and continued CPR. As the aircraft touched down at the hospital and with the boy's pulse restored, Petty Officer LAUBENSTEIN carried him into the hospital where a 15-person emergency medical team continued care. Demonstrating superb mental fortitude and physical stamina, Petty Officer LAUBENSTEIN rescued a boy whose core body temperature had dropped to 81 degrees, five degrees below what is considered "compatible with life." Petty Officer LAUBENSTEIN's courage, judgment, 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.