



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE COAST GUARD MEDAL

TO

**STEPHEN K. WILCOX
Aviation Electrician's Mate Third
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer WILCOX is cited for heroism on the early morning of 7 July 1986 when he and a friend responded to a life-threatening fire in a three-story apartment complex. Spotting smoke coming from the ground floor of the building, and fearing the fire would quickly spread, Petty Officer WILCOX rushed to the top floors and began awakening residents. He instructed the first person he encountered to summon the fire department. As the fire was rapidly spreading and intensifying, he directed the other residents to safety away from the building. After ensuring all occupants from the top floors were safe, Petty Officer WILCOX dashed to the ground-floor apartment where the fire began. Staying close to the floor to avoid the thick smoke and intense heat, he entered the apartment and searched for victims. He found an unconscious man – an apparent victim of smoke inhalation – in one of the bedrooms. With the help of his friend, Petty Officer WILCOX dragged the victim out of the building away from danger, and immediately administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation until the victim was revived. Petty Officer WILCOX, by his daring actions, decisive leadership, knowledge of first aid, and sheer determination, risked his own life to save seven others. Petty Officer WILCOX demonstrated

remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude, and daring in spite of imminent personal danger in this rescue. His courage and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.