CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL   
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)

**TO**

**ANDREW C. VARDAKIS   
BOATSWAIN’S MATE THIRD CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

**Petty Officer VARDAKIS is cited for superior performance of duty while assigned to Station Annapolis, Maryland from July 2011 to July 2015. Displaying exceptional initiative, Petty Officer VARDAKIS quickly completed his billeted certifications as a Seaman, and then progressed towards achieving the rate of Boatswain Mate through the striker program. After successful program completion, Petty Officer VARDAKIS worked towards and achieved multiple certifications; coxswain on the Response Boat-Small and Response Boat-Medium, Officer of the Day, and Boarding Officer. Participating in 450 missions, his operational excellence as a Coxswain was critical to the Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security mission on the Chesapeake Bay. Petty Officer VARDAKIS logged over 1,000 underway hours while conducting high capacity passenger vessel and high value unit escorts, recreation and security boardings, and search and rescue. Most notably, Petty Officer VARDAKIS used his damage control knowledge to control flooding and successfully patched a damaged shaft seal of a stricken vessel during a search and rescue case that occurred on 23 November 2014. His efforts allowed the boat crew to safely dewater the vessel and tow them to the nearest safe haven, resulting in two lives saved and $45,000 in property salvaged. Demonstrating superior knowledge and dedication to the law enforcement program, Petty Officer VARDAKIS participated in 129 boardings and assisted with the certification of new boarding team members and boarding officers. As the Navigation Petty Officer, he ensured that all charts and publications were kept up to date, resulting in passing scores for two Standardization Team Inspections and four Ready For Operations inspections. Petty Officer VARDAKIS’s diligence, perseverance, 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.**