CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

**THE COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

**TO**

**ANDREW C. VARDAKIS**

**BOATSWAIN’S MATE THIRD CLASS**

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer VARDAKIS is cited for superior performance of duty while serving as a crewmember and boarding team member onboard the CG 45640 in response to a boat collision on the Severn River near Annapolis, Maryland on July 4, 2014. Displaying exceptional foresight and judgment, Petty Officer VARDAKIS quickly prepared himself to respond to several potentially injured boaters ahead of arriving on scene of the collision. Once alongside the stricken vessel, Petty Officer VARDAKIS assessed the situation, boarded the disabled vessel with eight passengers on board and assisted in prioritizing the treatment of those injured from the impact of the boat collision. After immediately identifying a passenger with a potentially life-threatening head injury, Petty Officer VARDAKIS assisted in stabilizing the individual while simultaneously overseeing the care of two additional passengers. The first, suffering from glass shards embedded in her leg, was swiftly assessed and treated. Petty Officer VARDAKIS ensured the protruding glass was properly wrapped to stop the bleeding and prevent further blood loss. The second passenger, experiencing shock from the impact of the collision, was kept calm to keep her from frantically moving about the vessel in a very hazardous and unsafe environment. Anticipating a potential air lift of the most seriously injured member, Petty Officer VARDAKIS assisted the local EMTs in securing the victim to a backboard so that he could be quickly transferred by helicopter without further incident. The immediate actions and outstanding teamwork displayed by Petty Officer VARDAKIS and the rest of the CG 45640 crew were directly responsible for ensuring the safety of two people and saving the life of a third victim who was subsequently air lifted to a local trauma center. Petty Officer VARDAKIS’ 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.