**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF**

**THE COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

**TO**

**MICHELLE R. CLIFTON**

**BOATSWAIN’S MATE SECOND CLASS**

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

**Petty Officer CLIFTON is cited for superior performance of duty while serving at Coast Guard Station Crisfield, Maryland, from July 2011 to June 2015. Exhibiting outstanding leadership, guidance, and instruction as Weapons Petty Officer, her efforts led to three successful Armory inspections and four annual audits with zero deficiencies. Demonstrating exceptional professional knowledge and dedication as a duty Coxswain, she completed 296 missions, logging over 624 hours on four different boat platforms to include patrols in support of training, Marine Safety, Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security, Living Marine Resource Enforcement, and multiple Search and Rescue cases. Most notably, on December 08, 2011, Petty Officer CLIFTON responded to a 33-foot vessel with one Russian national aboard that collided with a day beacon in the Chesapeake Bay. Her recovery efforts led to the seizure of multiple Russian documents, electronics, and multiple passports which were turned over to Coast Guard Investigative Service for further investigation. Her search efforts in two reported plane crashes October 2, 2011 and January 21, 2012 covered over 70 square miles leading to the safe recovery of one passenger. Petty Officer CLIFTON’s commitment to excellence was also evident to the Town of Crisfield in the wake of Hurricane SANDY, helping four homes and a local church remove water-damaged walls and insulation, demonstrating to the community their local Coast Guard members would help them overcome the devastation. Additionally, she volunteered her personal time mentoring at-risk children at Woodson Elementary School, strengthening the Station’s partnerships with the local community. Petty Officer CLIFTON’s diligence, perseverance, and devotion to duty are most heartedly commended are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.**

**The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.**