**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF**

**THE COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL**

**TO**

**ALEXANDER I. POLYAK  
OPERATIONS SPECIALIST SECOND CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

**Petty Officer POLYAK is cited for outstanding achievement while assigned to Coast Guard Sector Baltimore’s Command Center (SCC) from June 2010 to June 2015. Petty Officer POLYAK exhibited exemplary dedication to duty, performing exceptionally as both an Operations and Situation unit controller. His innate ability to quickly grasp complex issues, and rapidly provide effective solutions greatly contributed to the myriad missions executed by the SCC. Originally billeted and assigned as an Situation Unit (SU) Watch Stander, Petty Officer POLYAK dedicated 150+ hours of training to qualify as one of the first the first E-5 Operations Unit watch standers at Sector Baltimore; a position previously designated for the rank of E-6 or above. He also provided over 1,000 hours of instruction to 30 personnel, with 10 of those members being more senior. These training initiatives resulted in 32 initial qualifications or re-certifications. Petty Officer POLYAK’s commitment to the development of those of those personnel contributed to the SCC’s overall mission impact of saving or assisting 2,900 lives and over $6M in property, during his tenure. Petty Officer POLYAK personally managed 84 Search and Rescue cases and his efforts, in concert with station crews and the coordinated response of the watch floor, saved or assisted 120 lives and over $1.1M in property. Most notably, on 13 December 2013 a wave crashed into a 22ft white center console, rapidly capsizing the vessel and throwing the two people on board into the 38 degree water. Without hesitation, Petty Officer POLYAK launched air and surface assets, and diverted Station St. Inigoes who was underway and in the vicinity. Both victims were quickly pulled from the water and transferred to EMS, and the immediate actions that were taken that day undoubtedly saved their lives. Petty Officer POLYAK’s dedication, 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.**