**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF**

**THE COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL**

**(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

**TO**

**JEFFREY C. RITTER**

**CHIEF BOATSWAIN’S MATE**

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

**Chief RITTER is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as Executive Petty Officer on USCGC CHOCK, (WYTL-65602) Portsmouth, VA and Baltimore, MD from JUN 2012 to JUN 2015. Demonstrating visionary technical proficiency and exceptional professionalism, Chief RITTER assisted with the final execution of the cutters permanent relocation from Portsmouth, VA to Baltimore, MD enhancing ice breaking capabilities in the Upper Chesapeake Bay. Chief RITTER’s consistent dedication to professional and competent operations was evident in over 600 hours served as a Deck Watch Officer. His relentless pursuit of operational excellence was showcased during the 2014 and 2015 icebreaking seasons when temperatures across the Mid-Atlantic region plummeted creating significant ice growth that impeded commercial vessel traffic. His exceptional devotion to duty ensured CHOCK safely delivered food and supplies to the ice bound residents of Tangier Island and guaranteed the delivery of critical heating fuel to the DELMARVA region via the Elk and Wicomico Rivers. Building on an already strong Coast Guard presence in the Chesapeake Bay region, Chief RITTER competently and enthusiastically represented CHOCK during multiple joint operations with federal, state and local police departments. Most notably during Operation Pathfinder II Chief RITTER was instrumental in providing effective communications with Customs and Border Patrol Agents, Maryland State Police, and the Coast Guard Investigative Service; resulting in the seizure of 250 pounds of marijuana. Chief RITTER’s synergistic efforts also resulted in exceptional inter-agency cooperation and partnerships during the 57th Presidential Inauguration, two State of the Union Addresses, Opsail 2012 and four days of Blue Angels Air Shows during the 2014 Star Spangled Spectacular and Navy Fleet Week. Chief Petty Officer RITTER’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.**