

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A FOURTH)

TO

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JOHN PHILLIPS III
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Chief Warrant Officer PHILLIPS is cited for outstanding achievement while assigned to Sector Jacksonville from July 2019 to July 2022. Proving to be one of the CG's most experienced and knowledgeable ATON professionals, he played a crucial role in the \$484 million dollar St. Johns River channel deepening project. Liaising with the Army Corp of Engineers, St. John's Bar Pilots, NOAA, and private industry, he coordinated the relocation of ranges and buoys, along with adding ATON to the extension of the channel, ensuring the 47' deepening was ready to safely receive Post-Panamax Vessels, and was able to complete this unprecedented dredging project ahead of schedule. Exemplifying superb technical acumen, he oversaw the repositioning of a buoy in the Saint Simons Sound following the capsizing of the 660 foot M/V GOLDEN RAY. The repositioning was vital in establishing a Regulated Navigation Area and re-opening the port of Brunswick to commercial traffic, significantly minimizing financial disruption to the second busiest auto port in the United States. A champion for maritime safety, Chief Warrant Officer PHILLIPS initiated the first Waterway Analysis and Management System review in St Mary's River in over 10 years, providing for the safe transit of strategic DOD vessels to Naval Station Kings Bay and commercial vessels to the Port of Fernandina. Chief Warrant Officer PHILLIPS 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.

