

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

TO

JOHN PHILLIPS III

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Chief Warrant Officer PHILLIPS is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as Commanding Officer of USCGC VISE (WLIC-75305) from June 2012 to July 2016. His exemplary leadership, initiative, and action ensured the steadfast operation of more than 1,350 aids to navigation that service 1,700 miles of shoreline within Sector St. Petersburg's area of responsibility. Most notably, Chief Warrant Officer PHILLIPS led the rebuild and repair of six major ranges that saved the Coast Guard approximately \$200,000 in contracting costs. These federal aids are vital to the safe navigation of countless recreational boaters and more than 10,000 commercial vessels that transit the port of Tampa Bay with over thirty-five million tons of cargo and one million passengers. Demonstrating elite technical expertise, he orchestrated the removal of more than one ton of steel from the marine environment and prototyped composite piles, now utilized Coast Guard wide. Showcasing superior seamanship, he expertly navigated VISE on unprecedented trips to the Florida Keys and Everglades, rebuilding critical aids and removing hazards to navigation to safeguard this critically sensitive environment. Employing outstanding project management, he guided VISE through a \$300,000 dockside availability, allowing VISE to remain fully mission-capable, ensuring Sector St. Petersburg exceeded the Coast Guard average for Aid Availability. Chief Warrant Officer PHILLIPS'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.

