

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

TO

STEPHEN E. VEDA

OPERATIONS SPECIALIST SECOND CLASS

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Petty Officer VEDA is cited for superior performance of duty while assigned on board USCGC SENECA (WMEC 906) from November 2003 to May 2006. As the leading telecommunications technician onboard, Petty Officer VEDA's exceptional performance significantly improved SENECA's communications capabilities during 8 patrols, including Counter-Narcotics, Living Marine Resource Enforcement, and Homeland Security operations. In the spring of 2005, a catastrophic Category IV casualty to the satellite communications system left SENECA unable to communicate via message traffic for an entire Living Marine Resources Enforcement patrol. Petty Officer VEDA immediately networked to develop and implement an alternative message communications method. This method utilized Secure Internet to provide message traffic capabilities, allowing SENECA to successfully perform its duties as Commander, Task Unit in the daily tasking of over 8 surface and air fisheries enforcement assets. Not satisfied with the temporary solution, Petty Officer VEDA constantly provided technical advice and suggestions to the contracted technicians throughout the remainder of the patrol, which directly resulted in the system's repair shortly after returning to homeport. Petty Officer VEDA's efforts enabled SENECA to go on to conduct its first full patrol in several years with zero messaging casualties or downtime. Petty Officer VEDA's technical expertise and tireless dedication also greatly benefited Coast Guard Cutters LEGARE and TAHOMA, when the cutters solicited Petty Officer VEDA to assist with their communications casualties. Petty Officer VEDA was able to single-handedly identify and correct critical flaws with their Over-the-Air-Transmission systems, effectively allowing them to establish communications during their Counter-Narcotics and Living Marine Resources patrols and achieve greater mission effectiveness. Petty Officer VEDA's diligence, perseverance, 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.



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

**THE COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

TO

**STEPHEN E. VEDA
OPERATIONS SPECIALIST FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer VEDA is cited for superior performance of duty while serving in the Sector Command Center at Coast Guard Sector Detroit, Michigan from October 2007 to June 2011. Displaying impressive professional knowledge, he qualified as Communication Unit, Situation Unit, and Operations Unit Controller where he expertly coordinated 685 search and rescue cases resulting in 174 lives saved, 989 lives assisted and more than \$16 million of property saved and assisted. Most notable were his efforts on July 13, 2008, where he coordinated the rescue and medical evacuation of a 35-year-old man that had fallen overboard from the S/V NIGHT TRAIN in Lake Huron, over 60 nautical miles from shore. Using superior planning skills, he developed an accurate search action plan which quickly located the person who was suffering from extreme hypothermia after being tangled in the vessel's rigging for several hours. Due to his diligent coordination and communication with the Flight Surgeon, an accurate assessment of the man's vital signs and symptoms was conducted, resulting in Petty Officer VEDA directing the injured man to be hoisted by an HH65 helicopter and delivered to a hospital where he fully recovered from his life threatening condition. Exhibiting meticulous attention to detail, he developed a comprehensive and extremely accurate assessment of search and rescue unit resources and personnel hours used to prosecute several hoax cases, which was effectively used by the Coast Guard Investigative Service for case documentation to support convictions against hoax callers. Petty Officer VEDA's diligence, perseverance, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

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CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

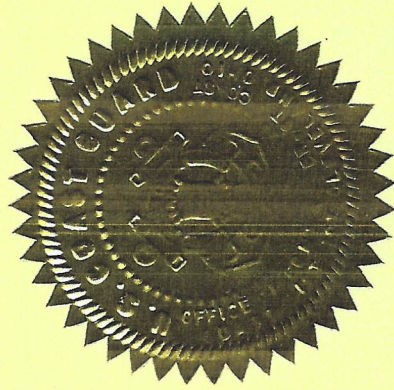
**THE COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A THIRD)**

TO

**STEPHEN E. VEDA
OPERATIONS SPECIALIST FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer VEDA is cited for superior performance of duty while assigned to the Ninth Coast Guard District Command Center, Cleveland, Ohio from June 2011 to June 2014. Demonstrating exceptional professionalism and attention to detail, he made major contributions to the oversight and execution of 1,111 incidents, saving and assisting 1,667 lives and over \$20 million in property. In March 2012, he assisted in the bi-national rescue of six crewmembers aboard the tug PATRICE MCALLISTER after a debilitating fire broke out. Adeptly transitioning the focus of the case from search and rescue to pollution response, his collaborative efforts with Canadian partners prevented 70,000 gallons of pollutants from entering Lake Ontario and enabled the salvage of the tug. Demonstrating vast knowledge and expertise in Coast Guard missions and the Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS), he proved to be a top trainer in the Command Center, assisting 15 new members achieve 23 qualifications. He also revised the Command Center's watch requirements, enhancing and standardizing the qualification process for new members. He submitted 100 purchase orders totaling over \$51,000, ensuring the Command Center was well-equipped. Petty Officer VEDA's diligence, perseverance, 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.



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

**THE COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A FOURTH)**

TO

**STEPHEN E. VEDA
OPERATIONS SPECIALIST FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer VEDA is cited for superior performance of duty while serving in the Sector Detroit Command Center from June 2016 to July 2020. Confident and composed under pressure, Petty Officer VEDA's professional knowledge and attention to detail while standing watch as a Command Duty Officer and Operations Unit Controller were instrumental in the coordination of over 700 cases spanning a wide range of Coast Guard mission areas. His efforts directly resulted in more than 440 lives and \$29.3 million in property saved or assisted. His performance on February 16, 2019 was most noteworthy when the Command Center received a report of a fire engulfing the pilot house of the M/V ST. CLAIR, a 770' vessel 69,000 gallons of fuel on board. His expert management of the watch team, precise initial actions and skillful coordination of numerous responding agencies laid the foundation for the eventual transition to an Incident Command Post. As the SIPRNet Trusted Agent for all of Sector Detroit, Petty Officer VEDA meticulously maintained more than 20 separate accounts with zero noted discrepancies. Dedicated to helping others, he mentored two junior members as they applied for and were accepted to college study programs, assisting them with guidance on balancing professional and academic responsibilities. Petty Officer VEDA's diligence, perseverance and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

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