

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL**

TO

LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE JOHN W. LEE

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Lieutenant Junior Grade LEE is cited for outstanding achievement while assigned to the Incident Command Post at Sector San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 3 September to 20 November 2017. Hurricanes IRMA and MARIA were storms of historic proportions, sweeping through the Caribbean and striking the densely populated cities of Tampa, Orlando, and Miami, as well as causing tremendous devastation to the island of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Together, these colossal storms displaced over 6 million people, left over 3.5 million without power and potable water, and caused over \$100 billion in damage. Lieutenant Junior Grade LEE served as the Liaison Officer to the island of Saint John in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane IRMA despite widespread rumors of security concerns and limited connectivity. Displaying laudable composure and resourcefulness, he quickly established a rapport with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Navy, National Parks Service, and local organizations, collaborating to establish a forward operating base. As Hurricane MARIA advanced, the community turned to his leadership. He responded by hosting numerous town hall meetings, serving as the lead speaker and disseminating information about the storm and evacuation options, directly leading to the safe evacuation of 600 residents by private boats. Lieutenant Junior Grade LEE'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.

