CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

**THE AUXILIARY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL**

**TO**

**COMMODORE JAMES E. VASS, JR.**

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**

**Commodore VASS is cited for exceptionally meritorious service to the Government of the United States in a position of great responsibility as National Commodore from November 2010 to August 2012. “*Dependability, Integrity, Diversity,”* were the watchwords by which Commodore VASS guided the Auxiliary to remarkable support of Coast Guard missions despite daunting challenges. Embracing the Commandant’s Auxiliary mission prioritization, he focused Auxiliary leaders at every organizational level to support the Coast Guard’s recreational boating safety program. His commitment to strengthening partnerships with other boating safety organizations was highlighted by creation of the unprecedented joint training program with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators that enabled Auxiliary instructors to provide high-quality small boat training to first responders across the nation. He ensured full Auxiliary readiness to answer all bells in support of the Coast Guard’s diverse operations including support of its international engagement in Exercise Tradewinds in January 2011, its expansive Midwest flood response in the spring of 2011, and the response to Tropical Storm Lee in the mid-Atlantic region in August 2011. His stalwart participation in the Coast Guard Leadership Council provided invaluable organizational insight and support for the Coast Guard’s missions. Exercising superb motivational and managerial skill, Commodore VASS led Auxiliarists to deliver over 6,650,000 hours of operational and administrative support to Coast Guard missions, conduct more than 330,000 vessel safety checks and marine dealer visits, and perform over 284,000 hours of public education and outreach. Commodore VASS’s leadership, dedication, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard and the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary.**