



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE SILVER LIFESAVING MEDAL

TO

**AD2 JEFF A. AMATRUDO
United States Coast Guard**

For heroic action on the morning of 24 August 1979 when he assisted in the rescue of a young boy from drowning in the Pacific Ocean at Gearhart Beach, Gearhart, Oregon. The boy had been swimming when he was caught in a treacherous undertow. Petty Officer AMATRUDO, on authorized liberty from U.S. Coast Guard Air Station, Astoria, Oregon, observed the boy struggling against the undertow as it carried him seaward. After frantic attempts to reach the victim failed, Petty Officer AMATRUDO, without any ocean swimming or water rescue experience and fully clothed, entered the water and swam through the six foot breaking surf to the boy who was approximately 100 yards offshore. Reaching the boy, Petty Officer AMATRUDO and a fellow Coast Guardsman who had swum out with him took turns towing the boy back through the surf to the beach. With the victim safely on the beach, Petty Officer AMATRUDO administered shock treatment to the boy until the arrival of medical personnel. Petty Officer AMATRUDO's determined efforts, outstanding initiative and fortitude during this rescue were instrumental in the saving of the boy's life. His unselfish actions and valiant service reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of humanitarian service.