



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
HAS AWARDED THE

## COAST GUARD MEDAL

TO  
MICHAEL P. LEAVITT  
MASTER CHIEF BOATSWAIN'S MATE  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
FOR

EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM ON 25 FEBRUARY 2007

GIVEN THIS 12th

DAY OF JUNE 2007



T. W. ALLEN  
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commandant

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE COAST GUARD MEDAL  
TO  
MICHAEL P. LEAVITT  
MASTER CHIEF BOATSWAIN'S MATE  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

**Master Chief Petty Officer LEAVITT is cited for extraordinary heroism on the evening of 25 February 2007, while part of a land rescue party from Station Humboldt Bay engaged in the perilous rescue of a man swept off the Humboldt Bay north jetty. Master Chief Petty Officer LEAVITT and the other members of the rescue party ran approximately half a mile to the end of the moss-covered, partly awash jetty and discovered the victim slipping from consciousness as he hung upside down twenty feet below the top of the jetty, between several dolosse, unusually-shaped concrete blocks similar to jacks used to protect harbor walls from the force of the sea. Master Chief Petty Officer LEAVITT and another member carefully traversed down the twenty feet over the slippery dolosse to reach the victim and discovered he had multiple contusions, abrasions, and a possible leg fracture. The rescuers decided that the only way to get the victim to safety was to free him from the dolosse and physically carry him to the top of the jetty. While attempting to free the victim, multiple waves exceeding twenty feet in height pummeled the rescuers with such force that the survival helmet was yanked off Master Chief Petty Officer LEAVITT's head, and the rescuers were nearly swept away several times. After freeing the victim, Master Chief Petty Officer LEAVITT and the other rescuer carried him between them through breaking waves to the top of the jetty. They quickly determined the victim needed immediate medical attention and ran through breaking surf to the end of the jetty where a waiting Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technician began first aid. A helicopter then transferred the victim to the hospital where he eventually made a full recovery. Master Chief Petty Officer LEAVITT demonstrated remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude, and daring in spite of immediate personal danger in this rescue. His courage and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.**

