



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

16 September 1991

The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION to:

**U.S. COAST GUARD MARINE SAFETY OFFICE GALESTON
GALVESTON, TEXAS**

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service from 21 July to 1 October 1989 while engaged in multiple operations in support of efforts to keep the ports and waterways along the gulf coast open during the blockades by the shrimpers protesting the Turtle Excluder Device (TED) regulations. Ports along the gulf coast from Brownsville, Texas to the Mermenthau River in Louisiana, including the ports of Houston/Galveston, were blockaded by irate shrimpers over the weekend of 22 and 23 July 1989. Some 800 shrimpers were involved in these first protests. Throughout the period, numerous threats of additional blockades were received, evaluated, resources staged and counter-blockade efforts organized. Again on 8 September, blockades were established at Bayou Lafourch (near Port Fourchon, Louisiana) and at Intracoastal City, Louisiana. Some 100 shrimpers were involved in these blockades. In the July blockades numerous threats of violence were made against Coast Guard units, rocks and tools were thrown at some units, rammings were attempted at Calcasieu and shots fired at two other locations. Throughout this entire period of heightened tensions, all units displayed the highest level of professionalism. Vessels were escorted, boardings conducted and citations written to document the actions of the violators. Units facing the blockades saw top-notch performance on the part of all involved, this in spite of the frequent personal abuse and occasional violent actions of the shrimpers. All personnel displayed tremendous flexibility, stamina, presence and the highest level professionalism. Their devotion to duty and excellent performance are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. M. Loy".

J. M. LOY
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District