



# 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  
ASTRUBAL J. CRUZ  
STOREKEEPER SECOND CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD  
FOR

EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM ON 9 MAY 1999

GIVEN THIS 3rd DAY OF JULY 2000



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Loy".

JAMES M. LOY  
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commandant

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

**TO**

**ASTRUBAL J. CRUZ**

**STOREKEEPER SECOND CLASS**

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

**Petty Officer CRUZ is cited for extraordinary heroism on the afternoon of Mother's Day, Sunday, 9 May 1999 in a time of crisis while on liberty at Sacred Falls Park, Oahu, Hawaii. Petty Officer CRUZ, in company with three other CGC JARVIS crewmembers, was hiking in the Sacred Falls State Park when an unexpected landslide occurred, dumping tons of rock and debris on dozens of unsuspecting civilian hikers and campers. This catastrophic event killed eight people and injured scores of others. Demonstrating a total disregard for his own personal safety, Petty Officer CRUZ heroically entered a dangerous rockslide strike area, rendering emergent first aid under dangerous conditions, with rocks still falling, moved to assist a woman whose leg had been crushed by a falling rock. Petty Officer CRUZ moved rapidly to stop the bleeding with a towel, making a crude splint so that he and one of his shipmates could carry her to safety. Literally holding her leg together with his hands, keeping her blood loss to a minimum, Petty Officer CRUZ comforted this critically injured woman while remaining in the triage area as people died around him. He showed fortitude in a situation of carnage and destruction, and provided encouragement and guidance to other rescuers for approximately three and a half hours. Petty Officer CRUZ's unselfish actions definitely saved the life of this woman and undoubtedly contributed to the saving of the lives of several others. His courage and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.**

