

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



The Commandant

IN RECOGNITION *of notable services which have assisted greatly in furthering the aims and functions of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the*

HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

To

The Gulf Safety Committee

Executed this 7th day of April 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Pluta", written over a horizontal line.

For the Commandant
Paul J. Pluta
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for
Marine Safety, Security, and
Environmental Protection

**Citation to Accompany
the
2002 Harbor Safety of the Year Award
to the**

Gulf Safety Committee

The Gulf Safety Committee is recognized as the 2002 Harbor Safety Committee of the Year for their notable services to improve safety and security in the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf Safety Committee has provided a forum through which a large and varied group of waterway users can share their experiences, issues and concerns effectively. Actions taken by the Gulf Safety Committee have made the Gulf of Mexico a cleaner, safer, more secure and more economically viable region for commercial and recreational use. The Gulf Safety Committee was formally established in July 2002. Challenged with a wide geographic area under the purview of multiple state, federal, and international government agencies, committee volunteers moved quickly to develop user-specific programs to improve safety and security in offshore areas of the Gulf of Mexico. In only nine months they have: conducted a training seminar on fishing techniques used by both recreational and commercial fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico; conducted an education program about the dangers of fishing near offshore platforms; published a protocol for fisherman to use to communicate with platforms; worked with regulators concerned with offshore facility security and with the Louisiana Rigs to Reefs program; developed a chart that explains the two principal security threat level systems; helped the Coast Guard improve dissemination of national threat level information; and developed a wall poster and wallet card to increase mariner awareness of security threats. The exceptional actions and distinguished service of the Gulf Safety Committee in proactively taking on safety and security challenges for offshore activities in the Gulf of Mexico are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of maritime service.