



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

17 August 2004

From: Commandant
To: BM3 John T. Banister, USCGR

Subj: LETTER OF COMMENDATION

1. I note with pride and am pleased to commend you for your performance of duty at United States Coast Guard Station Fort Pierce, from December 2001 to June 2002 while recalled to active duty as a result of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Displaying exceptional aptitude and professionalism, you quickly qualified as a boat crewman and boarding team member. During this time you responded to more than 50 search and rescue missions accounting for numerous lives saved. Most notable was the May 2000 rescue of four persons from a vessel taking on water off Fort Pierce inlet, in which you assisted in quickly locating the survivors and safely returning them to shore without injury. Demonstrating the highest degree of proficiency, you took on the weight room renovation project, and were instrumental in locating and obtaining various donated exercise machines and other physical training equipment. Your tireless efforts resulted in saving the Coast Guard over \$3000 in equipment and parts for this project. Your attention to detail and superior workmanship made significant lasting contributions to the material condition of the ship and promoted pride and an outstanding work ethic in your people. You worked diligently to mentor junior personnel and played a crucial role in training new personnel in basic seamanship watchstanding, and maritime law enforcement.
2. You are commended for your outstanding performance of duty. By your meritorious service, you have upheld the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.
3. You are hereby authorized to wear the Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbon Bar. The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Commandant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cari B. Thomas", is written over a diagonal line that extends from the bottom left towards the center.

CARI B. THOMAS
Commander, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Response Operations, Sector Miami