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SUBJ: 2010 NATIONAL IMAGE, INC. MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

1. I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE HS1 ELIAS GOMEZ OF CGC MOHAWK, **LT DAVID FERNANDEZ OF CGD ELEVEN** AND DR. MARY GIBBONS OF C2CEN AS THE ACTIVE DUTY, RESERVE AND CIVILIAN COAST GUARD SELECTEES RESPECTIVELY FOR THE 2010 NATIONAL IMAGE, INC, MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD.

2. AS THE ACTIVE DUTY RECIPIENT, HS1 ELIAS GOMEZ TRULY DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF DURING THE COAST GUARDS RESPONSE TO THE EARTHQUAKE THAT DEVASTATED HAITI IN JANUARY. ON JANUARY 14TH, HS1 GOMEZ WENT ASHORE AT THE HAITIAN COAST GUARD BASE IN KILLICK AND TREATED OVER 300 SEVERE TRAUMA PATIENTS. HE TREATED NEARLY HALF OF THE PATIENTS ON THE FLOOR USING ONLY THE MEDICAL SUPPLIES ABOARD THE MOHAWK AND TAHOMA. HE ORGANIZED, TRAINED, AND LED THE MOHAWKS BATTLE DRESSING STATION PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYED THEM AS ASSISTANTS IN THE CLINIC AT THE KILLICK COAST GUARD BASE. AFTER RETURNING TO THE SHIP AT NIGHT, HE CONDUCTED ADDITIONAL TRAINING TO ENSURE THE BATTLE DRESSING PERSONNEL WERE ABLE TO ASSIST WITH INJECTIONS, FILLING SYRINGES, SUTURING, AND CLEANING WOUNDS. EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AND WORK ETHIC IN HAITI, COUPLED WITH HIS STRONG BELIEF IN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, FAIRNESS, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RELATIONS, EPITOMIZES THE COAST GUARDS CORE VALUES OF HONOR, RESPECT AND DEVOTION TO DUTY.

3. **AS THE RESERVE AWARD RECIPIENT, LT DAVID FERNANDEZ HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING ADVOCATE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. IN 2009, LT FERNANDEZ DEMONSTRATED SUPERIOR INITIATIVE BY FOUNDING THE FIRST EVER ASSOCIATION OF NAVAL SERVICES OFFICERS (ANSO) SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA CHAPTER, WHICH SUPPORTS THE RECRUITMENT, ADVANCEMENT, AND RECOGNITION OF HISPANIC OFFICERS IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES. HE CURRENTLY SERVES AS PRESIDENT OF THIS FAST GROWING LOCAL CHAPTER. LT FERNANDEZ WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COAST GUARD PACIFIC AREA DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPOINTED BY VADM BRECKENRIDGE TO BE PART OF THE NEWLY CREATED PACIFIC AREA LEADERSHIP AND DIVERSITY ACTION COUNCIL. AS SUCH, HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE PACAREA DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN. ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY, HE LED A VOLUNTEER GROUP ASSISTING WITH THE SOUTH BAY STAND DOWN, A THREE DAY EVENT PROVIDING ESSENTIAL SUPPORT SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS. ADDITIONALLY, LT FERNANDEZ WORKED WITH A DIVERSE GROUP OF UNDER-RESOURCED HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, PROVIDING THEM WITH REAL WORLD ENTREPRENEURIAL EXPERIENCES AND MOTIVATION. HIS DEDICATION HAS HAD GREAT IMPACT ON A BROAD RANGE OF ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.**

4. AS THE CIVILIAN AWARD WINNER, DR. MARY GIBBONS DEMONSTRATED A REMARKABLE DEGREE OF LEADERSHIP ON THE COAST GUARDS BEHALF. DR. GIBBONS HAS BEEN A CATALYST FOR PROMOTING EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MINORITIES WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, RELIGION, CREED, AGE OR CULTURE. SINCE HER APPOINTMENT IN 2008, DR. GIBBONS HAS SERVED ON THE COAST GUARD DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL AND HAS RESEARCHED DOZENS OF ISSUES RAISED FROM THE FIELD. SHE SUCCESSFULLY INTERACTED WITH VARIOUS USCG FUNCTIONAL SUPERVISORS AND EMPLOYEES TO RESOLVE ISSUES AT THE LOWEST LEVEL. DR. GIBBONS CONTINUES TO PROVIDE SUPERB PROGRAM ADVICE, GUIDANCE AND REVIEW, AS WELL AS EVALUATE PROACTIVE EFFORTS TO ENSURE DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT FROM LEADERSHIP ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PRINCIPLES.

SHE ACCOMPLISHES THIS BY CONDUCTING ASSESSMENTS, TREND AND BARRIER ANALYSES, ACTION PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT REPORTING AND MAKING APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS TO SENIOR LEADERS. AS A USCG AUXILIARIST, SHE HAS SERVED IN MANY POSITIONS AT THE NATIONAL, DIVISION, AND FLOTILLA LEVELS. DR. GIBBONS IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE GENDER POLICY ADVISOR GROUP FOR THE SUPERINTENDENTS STRATEGIC INITIATIVE ON DIVERSITY.

5. THE AWARD RECIPIENTS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT AN AWARDS BANQUET HELD IN THEIR HONOR ON 8 APRIL 2010 AT THE NATIONAL IMAGE TRAINING CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION IN SAN DIEGO, CA.

6. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD WINNERS.

7. CAPT E. G. FAUX, ACTING DIRECTOR, CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTORATE, SENDS.

8. INTERNET RELEASE IS AUTHORIZED.

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