

On behalf of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Commandant takes great pleasure in presenting the CERTIFICATE OF VALOR to

**JEREMY L. PLYLER
BOATSWAIN'S MATE SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE**

For acts as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For heroic actions on 24 November 2005, while on patrol as a Deputy Sheriff with the Oswego County Sheriff’s department. During winter storm warnings and white-out conditions Deputy PLYLER arrived on scene where a motor vehicle was reported submerged with three persons believed to be inside, in the Oneida River in Schroepel, New York. Upon arrival, Deputy PLYLER observed bubbles rising to the surface of the water from the vehicle which was approximately 50 feet from shore. Deputy PLYLER noticed others had arrived, but were unable to respond with the equipment on hand, so he quickly solicited the help of a nearby boater, who rowed him out to the submerged vehicle. Deputy PLYLER then, without regard for his own life, entered the 36 degree water, dove down to the vehicle and attempted to open the driver’s side door, which he found to be locked. After numerous attempts to shatter the window using a window punch, he successfully smashed the window using his bare hand. Deputy PLYLER located the occupant and brought her to the surface where they were both pulled to shore by local rescue personnel. The victim was transported to a local hospital for treatment where she unfortunately succumbed to her injuries. Deputy PLYLER was treated on scene for lacerations to his hands and hypothermia, and remained on scene until the rescue dive team arrived and confirmed that there were no remaining occupants in the vehicle. Deputy PLYLER displayed extreme heroic daring as he endeavored to save the victim from the icy waters of the Oneida River. His uncommon actions were made at the risk of his own life to save another, and are an example of the training and dedication to duty he has developed as a Sheriff’s Deputy and a Coast Guard Reservist. Deputy PLYLER’s unselfish actions and valiant service reflect credit upon himself and are keeping with the highest traditions of humanitarian service.”

