



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIR MEDAL
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF THE SECOND)**

TO

**LIEUTENANT JONATHAN B. ARDAN
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant ARDAN is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on 31 December 2019 while serving as copilot aboard CGNR 6038. Upon receipt of a mayday call from the FV SCANDIES ROSE, CGNR 6038 launched into the harrowing night through severe blizzard conditions with visibility less than ¼ mile, forcing the crew to fly below 300 feet while transiting through treacherous mountain terrain. Undaunted by the winter storm producing winds in excess of 50 knots and unrelenting vertigo inducing turbulence, Lieutenant ARDAN fought to maintain aircraft control during the perilous two and a half hour journey to the last known position 170NM southwest of Kodiak, Alaska. Once on scene, the crew miraculously spotted the lights on two life rafts floundering amid the raging seas. Confronted with unpredictable down drafts and gale force winds, Lieutenant ARDAN battled to establish a stable hover above the surging 30-foot seas. With no visual references or horizon, Lieutenant ARDAN maintained his poise despite the invisible rising and falling seas causing unnerving radar altitude excursions as low as 20 feet. He masterfully maneuvered the aircraft into a safe position to deploy the rescue swimmer and recover the hypothermic survivors. Mindful of fuel constraints, Lieutenant ARDAN led the crew through three incredibly efficient and impeccable hoists. Lieutenant ARDAN's heroic actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in saving two lives. His courage, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.