



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**

**TO**

**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER RAY C. HINER  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Commander HINER is cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 4 October 1980 while serving as copilot of Coast Guard HH-3F 1480 engaged in the rescue of personnel from the M/V PRINSENDAM which was afire and disabled in the Gulf of Alaska 160 miles northeast of Sitka. Dispatched from Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, the helicopter, with extra firefighting equipment on board, proceeded to the scene despite darkness, rain showers, and strong, turbulent winds. Reaching the burning ship, Lieutenant Commander HINER assisted the pilot in positioning the helicopter over the small stern area of the heavily pitching and rolling PRINSENDAM as the desperately needed firefighting equipment and the Air Station Damage Control Officer were lowered. As the pilot maneuvered the helicopter about the ship, Lieutenant Commander HINER provided illumination for the Damage Control Officer as he attempted to find his way through debris, around a dangerously hanging lifeboat, past the burning lounge area, and to the bridge where he conferred with the Captain as to the extent of damage. After the helicopter was refueled in Yakutat, it was flown back to the scene. The T/V WILLIAMSBURGH had arrived and was attempting to retrieve the survivors. Due to the tanker's high sides and the widely scattered lifeboats, the retrieval of survivors was extremely difficult. Lieutenant Commander HINER, now flying the aircraft, commenced hoist operations and the transfer of survivors to WILLIAMSBURGH. Lieutenant Commander Hiner's innovative actions, expert aeronautical skill and valor throughout this mission aided in the successful rescue of 56 persons. His courage, sound judgment and unwavering devotion to duty are heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.