



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

TO

**KEVIN R. AINSWORTH
HEALTH SERVICES TECHNICIAN THIRD CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer AINSWORTH is cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on the morning of 30 July 1989 while serving as an aircrewmember of Coast Guard HH-3F CGNR 1495. Dispatched from Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, the aircrew was engaged in the rescue of five people from an airplane crash on the Chilkat Peninsula near Haines, Alaska. CGNR 1495 flew through mountainous terrain with severely reduced ceilings and visibility to the base of a 1,500 foot mountain obscured in clouds. While sitting on the open aft ramp of the helicopter, Petty Officer AINSWORTH monitored its tail rotor clearance from the treetops. His vital observations were severely hampered by dense fog which reduced visibility to 20 feet, CGNR 1495 hovered up the near vertical terrain to the crash site. For two hours, it hovered perilously close to the 125 foot treetops as Petty Officer AINSWORTH was lowered through the thick tree cover to the hazardous terrain below. In spite of the danger from spilled aviation fuel, he and another aircrewmember were able to remove all five survivors from the wreckage and carry them along the treacherous slope to an area where they could be hoisted to safety. Once back aboard the helicopter, Petty Officer AINSWORTH treated the survivors' injuries, despite suffering near total exhaustion from his intense physical rescue effort. Petty Officer AINSWORTH'S actions and valor were instrumental in the rescue of five critically injured victims. 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.