



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

**TO**

**LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) ROCKY S. LEE  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant (Junior Grade) LEE is cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on the morning of 30 July 1989. While serving as copilot of Coast Guard HH-3F CGNR 1495, he was engaged in the rescue of five people from an airplane crash on the Chilkat Peninsula near Haines, Alaska. Dispatched from Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) LEE navigated CGNR 1495 through mountainous terrain with severely reduced ceilings and visibility. Upon arrival at the scene, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) LEE established radio contact with a civilian helicopter that was hovering over the crash site, 800 feet up the near vertical side of the mountain and coordinated procedures to home on its radio transmissions. With visibility reduced to 20 feet, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) LEE provided critical backup to the pilot while continuously maintaining communications with the civilian helicopter as they hovered perilously close to the treetops. Despite a malfunctioning attitude indicator and radar, he assisted the pilot during the two hours of demanding hovering and expertly performed an instrument takeoff into the thick clouds while surrounded by 6,000-foot mountains. Lieutenant (Junior Grade) LEE's actions, aeronautical skill 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.