



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE COAST GUARD ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

TO

**RICHARD L. ELLISON
AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer ELLISON is cited for superior performance of duty while serving as flight mechanic on Coast Guard helicopter 1485 on 9 and 10 August 1990 in the medical evacuation of a severely injured crewman from the F/V OCEAN PHOENIX approximately 150 miles northwest of St. Paul Island, Alaska. Petty Officer ELLISON assisted in navigating through extremely adverse weather conditions including winds to 30 knots and visibility near zero. After completing the demanding two leg flight from Kodiak to St. Paul, Petty Officer ELLISON helped prepare the aircraft for launch the following morning. When visual contact was made with the vessel, Petty Officer ELLISON assisted the pilot in maintaining visual contact. While circling in preparation for the hoist, the fog was so dense that visual sight of the vessel was lost three times. Petty Officer ELLISON expertly hoisted the injured crewman from the pitching bow of the vessel. The aircraft again navigated in adverse weather conditions and around dangerous terrain to deliver the injured crewman to medical assistance at St. Paul. Petty Officer ELLISON's diligence, perseverance and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.