



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIR MEDAL**

TO

**ENSIGN ROCKY S. LEE
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Ensign LEE is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on 11 September 1988 while serving as co-pilot aboard Coast Guard HH-3F helicopter 1495 during the rescue of two men and a woman from the fishing vessel FREDA which sank in Dixon Entrance, Alaska. Departing Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, Ensign LEE skillfully piloted the helicopter through hazardous low visibility along the mountainous Southeast Alaska coastline to Dixon Entrance. Upon locating the survivors, Ensign LEE expertly maneuvered the aircraft in the poor visibility for the difficult open-water hoisting operation. When the first victim, still in the water, lost consciousness and became entangled in the hoist cable, Ensign LEE quickly and expertly positioned the aircraft for a complicated free fall deployment of the rescue swimmer. With the rescue swimmer's assistance, the unconscious man was pulled into the rescue basket and hoisted to the helicopter. At that point, the pilot left the cockpit to assist in cardiopulmonary resuscitation efforts, leaving Ensign LEE alone to hoist the remaining two victims and the rescue swimmer. After all survivors and the rescue swimmer were hoisted to safety, Ensign LEE skillfully piloted the helicopter through fog and the hazardous terrain around Nichols Passage to Ketchikan where he landed in a confined area of a ferry terminal parking lot. Although the unconscious victim did not survive, Ensign LEE's actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in the rescue of the two remaining 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.