



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE AIR MEDAL  
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

**TO**

**LIEUTENANT JONATHAN P. ORTHMAN  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant ORTHMAN is cited for heroic achievement in aerial flight on the night of 1 November 2020 while serving as Copilot aboard Coast Guard helicopter, CG6025. The crew launched at 1800L in response to Fishing Vessel IRONY's emergency beacon activated near Meyers Chuck, Alaska. For nearly the entire duration of the flight the crew encountered instrument meteorological conditions, moderate to severe turbulence, zero illumination and 60-knot winds. Lieutenant ORTHMAN skillfully piloted the aircraft over 200 miles through mountainous terrain to reach the last known position of the emergency signal. Carefully following the direction finder, he guided CG6025 to the beacon while the crew used the infrared camera to locate the lone survivor clinging to debris in the tightly stacked 12-foot seas. Lieutenant ORTHMAN showcased exceptional airmanship through a difficult night approach to the water and harness deployment of the rescue swimmer. When the survivor dangerously panicked under the rotor wash, he smoothly repositioned the helicopter into a catenary hoist, enabling the rescue swimmer to secure the beleaguered mariner for rescue. With both men aboard, he flew the aircraft to Ketchikan, cloaked in a storm-driven blackout, where he utilized ambulance headlights to safely execute the landing to an unlit, confined helipad. Lieutenant ORTHMAN's actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in the rescue of one life. 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.