



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT MICHAEL G. WALLACE
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant WALLACE is cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on the afternoon of 3 December 1985 while serving as aircraft commander of Coast Guard HH-3F helicopter 1491 when he conducted the search and rescue of two survivors of a small private plane which crashed into the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Dispatched from Air Station Cape Cod, Lieutenant WALLACE navigated to the scene and located the survivors despite gusting winds of 100 knots, severe turbulence, blowing snow, and severe cold. After numerous approaches, the two survivors were contacted on radio, and were subsequently located at the 5000-foot level on the leeward side of Mount Lafayette. Combatting approaching darkness, low fuel, and turbulent winds, Lieutenant WALLACE flew a sliding approach parallel to the ridge which enabled him to stay above the turbulence and below the overcast. He then maintained a steady 150-foot hover, despite snow blowing off the ridge and 60-knot gusting winds, while the survivors were safely hoisted aboard. Lieutenant WALLACE's actions, aeronautical skills, and valor were instrumental in the rescue of the two 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.