



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER RUSSELL H. ZULLICK III UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Lieutenant Commander ZULLICK is cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on the morning of 24 August 2000 while serving as Aircraft Commander aboard Coast Guard HH-60J helicopter CG6036. The aircrew was engaged in the perilous search for a downed aircraft with four persons aboard in the steep mountainous terrain of the Alaskan Peninsula. He navigated CG6036 over 125 miles overcoming turbulent headwinds, near zero visibility, freezing rain and snow showers enroute the search area. Horrific on scene weather forced CG6036 to land in a remote site in the mountains and wait for the weather to improve. After a 2-hour delay, the weather improved enough allowing CG6036 to resume searching. The downed aircraft was located at the 2,700-foot level precariously clinging to a cliff face. After hoisting the rescue swimmer to the crash site, he repositioned CG6036 to a staging area, a rock outcropping 700 feet below the crash site. With notification of two survivors trapped in the wreckage, he directed his co-pilot and flight mechanic to assist in the rescue, assessed the situation and requested the immediate assistance of a second helicopter. With his entire crew effecting the rescue, he received word from the crew that the fuselage was extremely unstable and in danger of sliding off the cliff. They requested assistance of the State Trooper Mountain Rescue Team, which had just arrived at a remote airfield 20 miles away. Single piloting the CG6036, he departed to embark and transport the Mountain Rescue Team back to the staging area. As he and his crew departed with the first survivor, the second helicopter arrived on scene. Lieutenant Commander ZULLICK pushed CG6036 and crew to their very limits enroute to King Salmon, where the patient underwent immediate life saving surgery. His actions, aeronautical skill, and valor were instrumental in saving this woman's life. Lieutenant Commander ZULLICK's courage, judgement, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.