



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

TO

**WILLIAN JAMES KNIGHT
AVIATION ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN THIRD CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

For meritorious achievement in aerial flight on March 12, 1968, while serving as crew member of a Coast Guard HH-52A helicopter engaged in the evacuation of crewmen from the floating oil rig JULIE ANN, Dixilyn No. 8, located 110 miles southwest of New Orleans, Louisiana, in the Gulf of Mexico. Despite severe weather conditions with 40-knot winds, 20-foot seas and blowing spray which constantly threatened to extinguish the aircraft's engine, Petty Officer KNIGHT skillfully directed the aircraft commander as near to the rig as the rotor clearance would permit during 11 difficult hoists utilizing the rescue basket with trail line. He passed the weighted line to the survivors and with perfect coordination with the hoist and directions to the aircraft commander kept the basket out of the mountainous seas. Petty Officer KNIGHT performed this exacting task 11 times, each hoist bringing a survivor to safety from the sinking rig. Petty Officer KNIGHT by his calm and persistent efforts throughout this arduous mission contributed to the timely rescue of the survivors. His resourcefulness, courage, sound judgment and unwavering devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.