



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL**

TO

**WILLIAM J. KNIGHT
AVIATION ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

For meritorious achievement in the performance of duty while serving aboard the Coast Guard helicopter 1392 on the morning of 4 December 1968 when the F/V PALAMITTIS was reported breaking up in the storm tossed waters of the Gulf of Mexico twelve miles SW of South West Pass. AT2 KNIGHT was performing the duties of the SAR aircrewman on HH52A 1392. He skillfully directed the aircraft commander into a hover in spite of gale winds and darkness and expertly hoisted five survivors aboard the helicopter in spite of the rapidly tossing and deep rolling vessel with high masts. The attempt to hoist the last man aboard failed due to the hoist cable fouling and snapping in the rolling rigging, losing the rescue basket. AT2 KNIGHT's perfect coordination and instructions were indispensable in the successful air evacuation of the five crewmen from the F/V PALAMITTIS. His highly professional airmanship, sound judgement, and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.