



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT DANIEL C. CHASE
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant CHASE is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while serving as the Co-Pilot aboard Coast Guard helicopter CG6514 on 24 February 2022 while responding to a Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit fire in the Sabine Pass channel. The only way to evacuate the nine oil rig crew members was by helicopter due to the height of the rig, inability to lower the platform, and the intensity of the fire. Lieutenant CHASE provided critical input to assess risk then expeditiously launched into hazardous conditions over Galveston Bay including visibility of only a few hundred yards, a 200-foot ceiling, and dense fog. After safely navigating the poor weather, CG6514 arrived on scene to find the rig—which had known explosive materials on board—engulfed in smoke and flames. As the helicopter approached the burning rig, a propane tank ignited causing a large explosion. With renewed urgency, Lieutenant CHASE—as the flying pilot—adeptly maneuvered the aircraft to complete five hoisting evolutions from 230 feet, each time moving survivors to a nearby rig due to time and fuel limitations. Each evolution required exceptional coordination to safely maneuver around the rig’s structure, all while the CG6514 crew flew through smoke and flying debris, and with a limited power margin. Lieutenant CHASE’s actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in the rescue of nine lives. 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.