



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL

TO

**LIEUTENANT JEB S. SLICK
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant SLICK is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as pilot at the controls aboard CGNR 6544. Shortly after midnight, on 8 September 2019, the M/V GOLDEN RAY rapidly capsized in St. Simons Sound casting her 24 crewmen into seemingly unsurvivable conditions. The 656-foot cargo ship, carrying 4,200 vehicles, listed dangerously to port, caught fire, and was at risk of imminent rollover. Arriving on the darkened scene Lieutenant SLICK surveyed the stricken ship, locating two survivors trapped within the bridge and in critical danger of falling over 70 feet onto railings below. Lieutenant SLICK prepared to deploy the rescue swimmer and maneuvered CGNR 6544 into a 150-foot hover over the ship's bow. Maintaining a steady hover, he lowered the rescue swimmer through a myriad of obstacles to the near vertical surface of the upturned, starboard bridge wing and delivered him safely aboard. Lieutenant SLICK maintained position alongside the foundering vessel, monitoring the scene as the ship listed past 70 degrees and fire spread unchecked. As the rescue swimmer emerged from the ravaged ship with a survivor, Lieutenant SLICK maneuvered CGNR 6544 with extreme precision, placing the hoist hook directly into the rescue swimmer's outstretched hand, lifting him and the vessel's Master to safety just as CGNR 6544 reached critical fuel levels and was forced to depart the scene. His dedication, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.