



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

TO

**ERIC F. YOUNG
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer YOUNG is cited for heroic achievement in aerial flight while serving as the Rescue Swimmer aboard CGNR 6531. 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 4200 vehicles, listed dangerously to port, caught fire, and was at risk of imminent rollover. Once on scene, Petty Officer YOUNG located light signals from numerous survivors on the slick starboard bridge wing. in peril of a 100 foot fall to the sea. Remaining connected to the hoist cable, Petty Officer YOUNG skillfully traversed the near-vertical surface to the group, where he rescued the first survivor. The aircraft then repositioned aft and lowered Petty Officer YOUNG 130 feet to three trapped crewmen. Again, he navigated myriad treacherous snag hazards protruding from the deck and immediately identified a severely injured survivor to whom he provided vital medical care until they were safely hoisted. Twice more he bravely returned until all three were hoisted. As the aircraft neared critical fuel levels, Petty Officer YOUNG asked to stay behind to assist a surface crew with continued rescue operations. Displaying immense courage, he boarded the cargo ship to continue searching for the four crewmen still trapped inside. Petty Officer YOUNG's actions and skill were instrumental in the rescue of four survivors. 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.