



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

**TO**

**MICHAEL C. MILLE  
AVIATION SURVIVALMAN THIRD CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer MILLE is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on 11 September 1988 while serving as the rescue swimmer aboard Coast Guard HH-3F helicopter 1495 during the rescue of two men and a woman from the fishing vessel FREDA which sank in Dixon Entrance Alaska. Departing Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, the helicopter flew through hazardous low visibility along the mountainous Southeast Alaska coastline to Dixon Entrance. Upon locating the survivors, the aircraft hovered into position to hoist them to safety. The first victim lost consciousness and became entangled in the hoist cable. Petty Officer MILLE deployed into the frigid 4-foot seas to aid the unresponsive victim. Upon reaching him, Petty Officer MILLE disconnected the basket and freed the man from the fouled cable. Petty Officer MILLE then re-attached the cable and with extreme difficulty, lifted the unconscious man into the basket for hoisting. Meanwhile, as the victim was being hoisted to the helicopter, Petty Officer MILLE calmed the other two persons in the water and prepared them for hoisting. After all were safely aboard the aircraft, Petty Officer MILLE directed hypothermia treatment for the last two recovered persons and performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on the unconscious man. Though exhausted from the water rescue, Petty Officer MILLE demonstrated extraordinary stamina continuing the CPR for the duration of the flight to Ketchikan. Although the unconscious victim did not survive, Petty Officer MILLE's actions were instrumental in the rescue of the two remaining victims. 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.