



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**

TO

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

Petty Officer MILLE is cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on the morning of 30 July 1989 while serving as the rescue swimmer aboard Coast Guard HH-3F CGNR 1495. Dispatched from Coast Guard Air Station Sitka, the aircrew was engaged in the rescue of five people from an airplane crash on the Chilkat Peninsula near Haines, Alaska. Petty Officer MILLE assisted with navigation as CGNR 1495 flew through mountainous terrain with severely reduced ceilings and visibility. While sitting on the open aft ramp of the helicopter, he provided vital information to the pilots as he monitored the helicopter's tail rotor clearance from the treetops. His vital observations were severely hampered by dense fog which reduced visibility to 20 feet. CGNR 1495 hovered up the near vertical terrain to the crash site. For two hours, it hovered perilously close to the 125 foot treetops as Petty Officer MILLE was lowered through the thick tree cover to the hazardous terrain below. In spite of the danger from spilled aviation fuel, he and another aircrewmember were able to remove all five survivors from the wreckage and carry them along the treacherous slope to an area where they could be hoisted to safety. Once back aboard the helicopter, Petty Officer MILLE helped treat the survivors' injuries, despite suffering near total exhaustion from his intense physical rescue effort. Petty Officer MILLE's actions and valor were instrumental in the rescue of five critically injured 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.