



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

TO

**NATHAN E. NEWBERG
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer NEWBERG is cited for heroic achievement in aerial flight while serving as Rescue Swimmer 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. As the 656-foot cargo ship, carrying 4,200 vehicles, listed past 70 degrees and a fire raged on board, Petty Officer NEWBERG deployed to the starboard bridge wing, now 100 feet above the water. Using innovative techniques in which he was neither trained nor experienced, Petty Officer NEWBERG secured sections of fire hose to the ship's railing and rappelled into the bridge where he located the vessel's master and the harbor pilot trapped in precarious locations. Displaying exceptional physical stamina, Petty Officer NEWBERG swung the fire hose to the pilot and lowered the man first to the port bridge wing, and then an additional 40 feet to rescue assets on the water. With CGNR 6544 nearly out of fuel, he courageously returned to the bridge and constructed a firehose ladder to extract the master for hoisting. Petty Officer NEWBERG placed the master safely aboard CGNR 6544, and with superb initiative, conducted an interview that shaped 36 hours of continued rescue efforts for four remaining crewmembers. Petty Officer NEWBERG's actions and skill were instrumental in the rescue of two people. 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.