



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

TO

**KING E. DAVID, JR.
AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer DAVID is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on the night of 28 February 1979. During this period he served as SAR aircrewman of CG HH-52B 1462 engaged in the rescue of seven men from the fishing vessel SIRIUS which had gone aground on Cape Douglas Reef, was without power, and was taking on water. Dispatched from Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak, Alaska, Petty Officer DAVID monitored the airframe, watching for ice buildup, as the helicopter proceeded to the scene. Upon arrival, Petty Officer DAVID noted that the hoist up-limit switch had frozen, requiring a more difficult hydraulic by-pass hoist. The fact that this hoist unit is designed for righthanded persons further complicated the operation as Petty Officer DAVID is left-handed. Displaying exceptional professional ability, Petty Officer DAVID provided precise advisories to the pilot as the helicopter was positioned over the seven men who were floating in the water. These advisories were continued while Petty Officer DAVID conducted four arduous hoists to bring all seven survivors onboard the helicopter. While returning to the Air station, he checked the survivors for hypothermia and ensured that there would be no medical problems enroute. Petty Officer DAVID's innovative actions, expert aeronautical skills, and courage throughout this rescue mission were instrumental in the safe evacuation of the seven men. His initiative, sound judgment and unwavering devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.