



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE AIR MEDAL  
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

**TO**

**LIEUTENANT ELMER PETER MATHISON  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the GOLD STAR in lieu of the second air medal to LT. ELMER PETER MATHISON, USCG, who ...

"while participating in aerial flight on 20 July 1951, as pilot of a Coast Guard plane engaged in removing a seriously ill man from the Swedish ship "Joh Gorthon" displayed exceptional airmanship. Lieutenant MATHISON effected a rendezvous with the "Joh Gorthon" at sea, locating the ship in a severe line squall. Unable to land, Lieutenant MATHISON orbited the ship for an hour and 15 minutes, flying on instruments in heavy rain and low visibility, until the squall moved from the area. He then landed alongside the ship in seas which at times built up to a height of 14 feet. The patient was quickly transferred to the plane, a successful JATO take-off was executed, and the patient transported to shore for hospitalization. Lieutenant MATHISON'S skill, courage, and unwavering devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon himself and the United States Coast Guard."