



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

TO

**COMMANDER BRUCE R. FRAIL
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Commander FRAIL is cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on the morning of 13 March 1993 while serving as aircraft commander of Coast Guard HH-3F helicopter CGNR 1486. Commander FRAIL launched CGNR 1486 to assist with the unit's response to multiple search and rescue cases created as the "Storm of the Century" raged over the west coast of Florida. Proceeding north along the Gulf Coast, Commander FRAIL encountered deteriorating weather conditions and reduced visibility in driving rain, sleet, and hail in squall lines, with winds steady at 45 to 50 knots and gusts to 60 knots. Overflying Pine Island, Florida, Commander FRAIL discovered the single access road to the island under six feet of water, homes being destroyed by the pounding seas and gale force winds, and people in the water, clinging to debris and roof tops. Displaying exceptional flying skill, he successfully piloted the aircraft into a narrow-confined area slightly larger than the helicopter rotor system and safely hoisted two people being battered against palm trees by pounding wave action. He proceeded to rescue six more people from the storm-tossed debris and flew them to safety at a local airport 10 miles inland. He then proceeded to assist the fishing vessel GENEVA, which was taking on water 10 miles west of Pine Island. Arriving on scene, Commander FRAIL located the vessel dragging anchor in 15-foot seas and gale force winds. He deftly maneuvered the helicopter over the wildly pitching vessel, hoisted two persons to safety, and proceeded back to Pine Island to rescue more storm victims. Commander FRAIL'S actions, aeronautical skill and valor were instrumental in the rescue of 37 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.