



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD FROM  
ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA**

**TO**

**ADAM J. VIA  
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN FIRST CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer VIA, on 3 May 2021, served as Rescue Swimmer on Coast Guard Helicopter CGNR 6034 during the rescue of five crewmembers from the burning 100-foot F/V NOBSKA 100 miles east of Air Station Cape Cod, Massachusetts. CGNR 6034 departed from Air Station Cape Cod in response to an active Emergency Position Indicating Radio beacon from the 100-foot trawler, which has suffered a hydraulic casualty and later caught on fire. Once on scene, Petty Officer VIA deployed via sling through 50 knot gusts into the North Atlantic waves cresting at 15 feet. After swimming 50 yards towards the burning vessel, he muscled through the first of five basket hoists that became increasingly difficult due to the 45-degree water and the bulky, inflexible suits each survivor wore. One at a time, Petty Officer VIA raced to lead each survivor into the rescue basket with each evolution requiring him to swim alongside a drifting vessel and exert extraordinary physical effort to battle against the demanding seas. While towing the fourth survivor towards the basket, he creatively utilized his own body as leverage to prevent the survivor from slipping beneath the waves, delivering him safely into the basket. Approaching mental and physical exhaustion, Petty Officer Via conducted the rescue of the final survivor, whose resistance required every last ounce of strength to affect a recovery. Despite extreme fatigue once back on board the helicopter, he provided immediate medical care for the survivors during the transit back to Air Station Cape Cod. The outstanding courage, dedication, and skill of Petty Officer Via was instrumental in the saving of five lives.