



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT KYLE E. JONES, III
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant JONES is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on the evening of 5 November 1976 while serving as copilot of Coast Guard HH-52A 1367 helicopter engaged in the perilous rescue of three persons from the fishing vessel HA343LF which was disabled and breaking apart in the surf on the north shore of Oahu, Hawaii. Dispatched from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point, the aircraft proceeded through mild turbulence and wind gusts of 30 to 40 knots, to the scene. Lieutenant JONES' attentive scan enabled him to locate the distressed vessel despite rainfall that reduced visibility to one-quarter mile. "No reference" hoist techniques were utilized throughout the hazardous operation during which Lieutenant JONES flawlessly coordinated cockpit activities. On the third hoist, the cable fouled and eventually parted, necessitating a platform pickup. During this extremely dangerous phase of the rescue, Lieutenant JONES expertly timed the 15 to 20-foot surf and advised the pilot accordingly. When the hoist operator departed the aircraft to assist the final person in the water, Lieutenant JONES went aft to the cabin and expertly coned the aircraft to a ledge above the turbulent surf. He then assisted the injured man and the hoist operator into the aircraft while the helicopter remained in a "one wheel" hover. Returning to the cockpit, Lieutenant JONES coordinated an instrument take off and assisted the pilot in the return flight through instrument conditions. The three survivors were delivered to an awaiting ambulance which rushed them to a nearby hospital. Lieutenant JONES' innovative actions, superior aeronautical skills, and courage throughout this rescue mission resulted in saving the lives of the three crewmen. His initiative, sound judgment and unwavering devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United State Coast Guard.