



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF  
THE COAST GUARD COMMENDATION MEDAL**

**TO**

**RICHARD A. GALLANT  
AVIATION ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN THIRD CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer GALLANT is cited for outstanding achievement on 11 September 1988 while serving as avionicsman of Coast Guard helicopter 1495 in the rescue of two men and a woman from the fishing vessel FRED A which sank in Dixon Entrance, Alaska. Petty Officer GALLANT assisted the pilots in communications and navigation as the helicopter flew through hazardous low visibility along the mountainous Southeast Alaska coastline to Dixon Entrance. In spite of the extremely poor search conditions in rain, fog, and four foot seas, Petty Officer GALLANT sighted the three persons in the water clinging to a hatch cover and he guided the pilot to a hover. Petty Officer GALLANT then assisted the flight mechanic in the hoist recoveries of the three victims and the rescue swimmer. Petty Officer GALLANT's dedication, judgment and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.