



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

TO

**CAROLYN M. DELEO
AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE THIRD CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer DELEO is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on 23 March 1983 while serving as hoist operator of HH52A 1373 engaged in the delivery of dewatering pumps and lifesaving equipment to the sinking fishing vessel VJ ONEAL, 38 miles southeast of Rockaway Inlet, New York. The helicopter flew to the scene despite occasional snow showers and upon arrival, the VJ ONEAL was observed rocking violently in 12 foot seas. Petty Officer DELEO provided advisories to the pilot to keep the aircraft clear of antennae, rigging, and bobbing outriggers as she delivered a dewatering pump. After approximately 45 minutes, the pilot decided to deliver a second pump and a liferaft. As Petty Officer DELEO lowered the pump, the vessel's violently rocking deck action and the 40 knot winds buffeting the helicopter severed the trail line. However, Petty Officer DELEO successfully delivered the pump through the rigging to the stern from an altitude of 70 feet. With 40 minutes of fuel remaining and 25 minutes required to transit for refueling, the aircraft was positioned over the vessel and Petty Officer DELEO released a life raft. It hit the target, but violent winds and the rocking deck forced the raft overboard. With Petty Officer DELEO guiding the aircraft, the raft was hoisted from the water with the rescue basket. With minimum fuel remaining, Petty Officer DELEO conducted a direct delivery of the raft utilizing the attached anchor line. Petty Officer DELEO's actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in the rescue of 11 lives and thousands of dollars of property. Her courage, judgment and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.