



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

**TO**

**MATTHEW B. MOYER  
AVIATION ELECTRONIC'S TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer MOYER is cited for superior performance of duty while serving as Aircrewman aboard Coast Guard HH-60J CG 6008 on 5 December 1993. Following the hoisting of four crewmen off the disabled Fishing Vessel MISS RENONA in 18-foot seas and 45-knot winds, the aircraft launched again in response to the disabled 52-foot Sailing Vessel DUTCHESS. The vessel was preparing to abandon ship 170 nm east of Cape Hatteras. Conditions were horrendous. Winds of 60 knots with gusts to 70 knots covered the 25-foot seas with a blanket of white spray. At sunset, the No. 2 "ENG FIRE" light illuminated; the crew declared an emergency and turned towards land. Moments later, Coast Guard HC-130H CG 1500 located DUTCHESS. With no secondary fire indications, the crew of CG 6008 decided to assess the DUTCHESS situation. They found her sails in tatters, rigging wrecked and hull battered. Suddenly, without warning, all three crewmembers jumped into the churning ocean. Displaying superb crew coordination, Petty Officer MOYER and the hoist operator worked as a team to rescue all three survivors. Each recovery took numerous attempts as the aircraft was buffeted by gale force winds and the rescue basket repeatedly swept away by the raging seas before the survivors could be loaded. Petty Officer MOYER called out approaching swells while his partner concentrated on the swimmer and pulled each survivor out of the basket and prepared it for launch again. He exerted considerable effort to steady the basket and hold it away from the external fuel tank during the lift. His actions and skill helped save three lives. Petty Officer MOYER'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.