



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

TO

**ROBERT G. GIPE
AVIATION ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer GIPE is cited for meritorious achievement in the performance of his duties while serving as SAR crewmember of HH52A 1382 engaged in the rescue of an Air Force pilot who had ejected from his F-106 aircraft 148 miles southwest of Vandenberg AFB, California. Petty Officer GIPE departed in HH52A 1382 from CGAS Los Angeles at 1626T, 14 October 1965, en route to the pilots' position with a refueling stop at Vandenberg AFB. Petty Officer GIPE unloaded certain equipment to reduce weight and refueled the aircraft to maximum load with no delay. En route to the scene and during a night instrument let-down, Petty Officer GIPE served as a lookout, sighting the glow of float lights on scene from a distance of about 1 mile. As the helicopter made the approach and landing, Petty Officer GIPE rigged the sea platform and conned the aircraft commander to a successful landing and pick-up in seas five to six feet high. After assisting the Air Force pilot on the sea platform, Petty Officer GIPE reported the drift of the life raft until it was clear of the helicopter. Acting with speed in a highly proficient manner, Petty Officer GIPE was able to minimize the time required to make the pick-up. The Air Force pilot was returned safely to Vandenberg AFB. Petty Officer GIPE's initiative, skill and devotion to duty reflect high credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.