



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

**TO**

**PETER C. GAUDET  
AVIONICS ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer GAUDET is cited for heroic achievement in aerial flight on 19 June 2021 while serving as Flight Mechanic aboard Coast Guard helicopter CG6565. The crew of CG6565 was launched on a distress alert from the 79-foot sailing vessel BARLOVENTO located 70 miles offshore of the California-Oregon border. The crew located the stricken vessel sinking in 20-foot seas and battered by hurricane force winds with six souls on board, one of whom had serious injuries. Petty Officer GAUDET expertly conned the pilot through a 140-foot-high hoist in close proximity to the vessel's two flailing masts and deployed the rescue swimmer to the water right next to the drifting boat. He wisely attached weight bags to the basket to counter the 55-knot winds pushing it well behind the aircraft and skillfully delivered the device to the swimmer and survivor with only three minutes of fuel remaining. He carefully managed cable swing and recovered them both from the churning seas. Returning to Sector, he transferred the injured and hypothermic patient to an ambulance before refueling and returning to the scene. With limited fuel, Petty Officer GAUDET helped develop an innovative rescue swimmer deployment technique and executed three challenging 130-foot hoists, plucking survivors from the ocean as they abandoned ship one-by-one. His actions and aeronautical skill, far exceeding his level of experience, were instrumental in the rescue of six people. Petty Officer GAUDET's courage, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.