



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT CHRISTINA M. MCGEE
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant MCGEE is cited for outstanding achievement on 14 January 2023 while serving as Aircraft Commander aboard CGNR 6566 during the rescue of seven crewmen onboard the disabled 95-foot tugboat LEGACY. Located 35 nautical miles offshore Ocean City, Maryland, Lieutenant MCGEE conducted critical flight planning to maximize aircraft performance, prepared for nighttime heavy weather conditions, and coordinated on-scene times with CGNR 6024. While enroute, Lieutenant MCGEE established communications with USCGC LAWRENCE LAWSON and LEGACY to conduct a vessel brief to expediate the hoisting evolutions. Once on-scene, Lieutenant MCGEE recognized LEGACY was beam-to 12-foot swells that were breaking over the deck and led a risk management discussion. Lieutenant MCGEE and crew identified an elevated grated platform on the stern of the vessel as the safest hoisting area. Lieutenant MCGEE skillfully maneuvered the helicopter into a 65-foot hover and patiently timed the deployment of the Rescue Swimmer with the rolling vessel. Despite the 30-knot winds, unstable hoisting platform, and degrading visuals, Lieutenant MCGEE safely deployed the rescue swimmer and conducted the recovery of three survivors. While departing the scene, Lieutenant MCGEE informed CGNR 6024 about potential hazards and lessons learned to allow the safe recovery of the remaining survivors. Lieutenant MCGEE's dedication, judgement, 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.