



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MEGAN J. PETERS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Commander PETERS is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as Aircraft Commander aboard Coast Guard helicopter 6024 on 14 January 2023. The crew of CGNR 6024 launched from Air Station Elizabeth City and flew 140 nautical miles northeast where they located the TUG LEGACY in distress, beam to the seas and darkened ship after it had parted lines with its barge in heavy weather. Lieutenant Commander PETERS battled near zero visibility and winds gusting to 40 knots during the difficult transit to scene. She expertly assessed on scene conditions while coordinating with CGNR 6566, an MH-65 that responded from Atlantic City and hoisted their Rescue Swimmer to the TUG LEGACY. Lieutenant Commander PETERS discussed and prepared her crew for a series of exceptionally demanding hoists with extremely limited reference points to the violently pitching and rolling vessel. Despite the challenging conditions and without the ability to use the aircraft's altitude hold due to the sea state, she expertly hovered 50' over the TUG LEGACY, retrieving and saving the lives of all four survivors. While preparing for a simultaneous hoist of the two Rescue Swimmers, a 20 foot wave struck the aft deck of the boat, tossing them in the water eight feet below and precariously close to the vessel's propellers. Acting decisively and without delay, Lieutenant Commander PETERS safely recovered both swimmers and brought them into the cabin where they provided emergency care to the survivors. Lieutenant Commander PETERS'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.