



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT PETER SAMUEL HEINS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant HEINS is cited for meritorious achievement in the performance of duty on the evening of 1 October 1974 while serving as Aircraft Commander of Coast Guard HU16E 7214 aircraft engaged in the location and rescue of eight people from the cabin cruiser TOO-TOO which had broken up and sunk in heavy wind and seas off Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Acting as on-scene commander, Lieutenant HEINS and the crew of the Albatross conducted a two hour search before finally locating the survivors just before dark. A helicopter also searching was nearby but running low on fuel and the Cutter HAMILTON was observed passing through the search area. Lieutenant HEINS successfully coordinated diverting both the helicopter and the cutter to the scene and alerted the ship of the helicopter's low fuel state and need to land aboard. He kept the survivors in sight until the helicopter arrived to hoist them to safety. Without the initiative, ingenuity and coordination efforts of Lieutenant HEINS and his crew, there is little possibility that the eight persons would have been found and rescued or that the helicopter would have had a place to land before running out of fuel. Through his outstanding leadership and skill this difficult rescue was successfully accomplished. Lieutenant HEINS sound judgment, diligence, initiative, outstanding leadership, and unwavering devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.