



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT PAUL KIEFER GRUVER
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant GRUVER is cited for meritorious achievement in the performance of duty on 19 February 1973 while assigned at U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Chicago, Illinois and acting as co-pilot on an air evacuation, in adverse weather, from Aurora to Rockford, Illinois; successfully providing swift transportation needed to save the lives of twin infants. prematurely and weighing two pounds ten ounces each, the newborns required rapid transportation to Rockford for medical attention and machines not available in Aurora. Through the course of the fifty-three minute flight in a three hundred foot ceiling, the helicopter encountered unforecast one quarter mile visibility, freezing drizzle and snow which caused ice buildup on the windshield. The "icing" precluded higher altitude instrument flight and at times ice accumulation on the windshield eliminated forward visibility. Lieutenant GRUVER skillfully maneuvered the aircraft, at two hundred feet altitude, through an area of numerous aerial obstacles, permitting the infants' safe delivery in Rockford under severely restricted visibility. Lieutenant GRUVER's fortitude and professional skill, under extreme pressure, allowed the infants the needed services required for their survival. His courage, sound judgement and unwavering devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.