



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT GENE NORMAN COOPER
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant COOPER is cited for meritorious performance of duty on the afternoon of 7 March 1962, while serving as co-pilot of Coast Guard helicopter, HO4S 1281, engaged in the rescue of men, women, and children during the flood emergency on Chincoteague Island, Virginia. Lieutenant COOPER, upon arrival at the distress scene, found the island almost completely inundated by ocean flooding. The populace was being evacuated from established sites within the flooded township to safe havens by helicopters of other services on the scene. Although severely handicapped by strong and turbulent winds, the Coast Guard helicopter immediately began a sweeping search for persons stranded and unable to wade to sites. When small groups of survivors were subsequently located in inaccessible places, Lieutenant COOPER skillfully assisted the pilot in maneuvering the helicopter into position to accomplish several successful hoist operations. Lieutenant COOPER'S skill and perseverance undoubtedly contributed to the saving of many lives. His courage, sound judgment, and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.