



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

TO

**DONALD A. FALLS
AVIATION MACHINIST MATE SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer FALLS is cited for meritorious performance of duty on the afternoon of March 7, 1962, while serving as hoist operator of Coast Guard helicopter, HO4S CG-1256, engaged in the rescue of men, women and children, during the flood disaster, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Upon arrival at the scene, a quick appraisal was made of the Outer Banks, which were being devastated by the raging seas, and winds of hurricane force. Petty Officer FALLS immediately rigged the basket for rescue as procedures were begun for hoist operations. Despite severe turbulence and the danger of flying debris being demolished by the wind and sea, he skillfully guided the pilot into position for hoisting. Although restricted by numerous obstacles and handicapped by the panicky conduct of many of the survivors, he persevered in the accomplishment of his task. Petty Officer FALLS' proficient handling of the hoist and conduct of the operation materially contributed to the successful evacuation of forty-one persons to safe ground in less than three hours. His courage, sound judgment and unwavering devotion to duty were keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.