



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE AIR MEDAL**

TO

**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER HENRY GARLON CASSEL
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Commander CASSELL is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on March 7, 1962, as pilot of Coast Guard helicopter HO4S 1309, engaged in the rescue of men, women, and children during the flood disaster on Chincoteague Island, Virginia. Upon arrival at the distress scene, Lieutenant Commander CASSEL 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. Lieutenant Commander CASSEL immediately began to search for persons stranded and unable to wade to evacuation sites and, although hampered by reduced visibility and severe turbulence, he persevered in his evacuation efforts. Skillfully maneuvering the helicopter, he completed six hoists, removing twenty-two survivors from their imperiled positions. Lieutenant Commander CASSEL displayed expert airmanship throughout this rescue mission. His courage, sound judgment, and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.