



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

TO

**ENSIGN TIMOTHY A. TOBIASZ
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE**

Ensign TOBIASZ is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as Copilot of Coast Guard HH-3F helicopter CGNR 1486 from Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Florida, on the night of 13 March 1993. The crew of CGNR 1486 was diverted from an active search and rescue case to immediately assist the M/V FANTASTICO reported to be taking on water and sinking 60 nautical miles west of Fort Myers, Florida. Flying through gale force winds as the "Storm of the Century" raged in the Gulf of Mexico, Ensign TOBIASZ expertly navigated the helicopter through extremely hazardous weather conditions to the last reported position of the distressed vessel and located two persons in the water. During the ensuing hoists, Ensign TOBIASZ calmly and professionally performed the duties of the safety pilot. He provided the Aircraft Commander with attitude and altitude warnings which, on several occasions, kept the aircraft from striking the water. Wearing Night Vision Goggles (NVGS) throughout the hoists, Ensign TOBIASZ was able to use the limited light available to monitor the sea state and warn the aircraft commander of possible rotor blade/wave contact. Ensign TOBIASZ' dedication, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.

