



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

TO

**O'BRIEN HOLLOW
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer HOLLOW is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on 23 March 2008 while serving as Rescue Swimmer aboard Coast Guard MH-60J helicopter CGNR 6007 while responding to the sinking of the F/V ALASKA RANGER, 125 miles west of Dutch Harbor, Alaska. Forward deployed to St. Paul Island, the crew conducted an early morning launch in response to a distress call reporting uncontrolled flooding on the 192-foot, catcher-processor with 47 persons on board. Arriving at the vessel's last known position amidst snow squalls and 30-knot winds, the crew witnessed an epic scattering of dimly lit strobe lights from the mariners who had abandoned ship into the turbulent seas. Knowing that survival time was waning rapidly, Petty Officer HOLLOW immediately deployed into the frigid water and recovered two survivors. Disconnecting from the hoist hook during three subsequent deployments, Petty Officer HOLLOW valiantly navigated through complete darkness, 10-foot breaking seas, and a dangerous debris field, locating and saving 10 additional hypothermic survivors. As the ice-covered cabin reached maximum capacity, the heavily laden CGNR 6007 raced towards USCGC MUNRO and medical care. During the 80-mile transit, Petty Officer HOLLOW tirelessly provided medical attention to the 12 mariners, ensuring all remained alert and conscious. Following the delivery of all 12 survivors to USCGC MUNRO, CGNR 6007 returned to scene where Petty Officer HOLLOW teamed with the aircraft's Flight Mechanic to hoist 3 additional survivors from the clutches of the icy ocean. Petty Officer HOLLOW's actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in saving 15 people from certain death in the Bering Sea. His courage, judgment and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.