



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

TO

**SCOTT C. LLOYD
AVIONICS ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer LLOYD is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on the evening of 20 April 2010 while serving as Flight Mechanic onboard CGNR 6605 during the rescue of five survivors following a catastrophic explosion on the DEEPWATER HORIZON Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit, 110 miles southeast of New Orleans, Louisiana. Following a failure of the oil rig's drilling system safety device 5,000 feet below the sea surface, a rush of oil and flammable gas surfaced and ignited the platform; ultimately crippling the structure, killing 11 people, and forcing workers to abandon the platform. CGNR 6605 launched from Air Station New Orleans minutes after notification. As the first air asset to arrive on-scene, Petty Officer LLOYD determined that the off-shore supply vessel DAMON B. BANKSTON had embarked 115 survivors of the blast. During reconnaissance of the vessel, and despite the heat and blinding light from the burning rig, he quickly identified the best hoisting location, conned the pilot into position, and lowered the rescue swimmer to the vessel's oil slicked deck. While the rescue swimmer performed emergency triage onboard the vessel, CGNR 6605 crew began a search for survivors in the water around the rig. Guiding the pilot under 600-foot flames and within 150 feet of the burning oil rig, the crew determined that there were no survivors and returned to the DAMON B. BANKSTON to begin hoisting the most critically injured. As heat thermals from the burning oil rig rocked the helicopter, he steadfastly conned the pilot through five extremely challenging hoists. Petty Officer LLOYD's actions and superior aeronautical skill were instrumental in the rescue of five oil rig workers impacted by one of the deadliest oil rig disasters in United States history. 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.