



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER FRANK LAWLER SHELLEY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Commander SHELLEY is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on March 7, 1962, as pilot of Coast Guard helicopter HO4S 1281, 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 SHELLEY found the island almost completely inundated by ocean flooding. The populace was being evacuated by helicopters from established sites within the flooded township to safe havens. Lieutenant Commander SHELLEY 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 twelve successful hoist operations, removing the survivors from their imperiled positions. Lieutenant Commander SHELLEY 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.