



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

**TO**

**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DENNIS R. ROBBINS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Commander ROBBINS is cited for meritorious achievement in the performance of duty while serving as Aircraft Commander of HH52A helicopter 1370 on 13 May 1978 engaged in the evacuation of 33 crewmen from the Motor Vessel PHOTINIA aground in Lake Michigan, off Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Alerted to the situation, LCDR ROBBINS directed the helicopter be prepared and launched from Air Station Chicago. The PHOTINIA was reported in danger of breaking up in 12-14 foot seas. Despite IFR conditions with a low overcast, reduced visibility in rain and fog, and steady winds of 30 knots with gusts to 40-50 knots, LCDR ROBBINS proceeded to the scene and when the determination was made to evacuate the ship's crew, removed them to safety, without incident. As Aircraft Commander, LCDR ROBBINS personally completed the hoist evacuation and delivery to shore of 25 crewmen. He then directly supervised the removal of the remaining 8 crewmen by the Co-pilot. The actual evacuation evolution consumed a grueling one hour and forty seven minutes under the most arduous environmental conditions which demanded the utmost in airmanship and determination. LCDR ROBBINS' perseverance, professionalism and devotion to duty displayed in the expeditious completion of this difficult mission are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.