



**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A SECOND)**

TO

**COMMANDER RICHARD L. BURKE
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Commander BURKE is cited for heroism and extraordinary achievement as Commanding Officer of the United States Coast Guard Air Station at Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and as Commander of an Aviation Task Unit of the Chesapeake Air Patrol during the entire period of his service since the United States entered the war. Participating in numerous anti-submarine and convoy protective patrols, in addition to many rescue, assistance and hospitalization flights, Commander BURKE constantly exercised keen judgment, expert airmanship skill and great initiative under extremely adverse conditions. On one occasion he rescued seven German survivors from a destroyed enemy submarine, thereby rendering valuable service to his country by virtue of the vital information obtained from these prisoners. Electing to land on the open sea in waves estimated at eight feet high, Commander BURKE, on another occasion, effected the transfer, from a ship to his plane, of a United States Navy enlisted man who was urgently in need of an emergency operation and had to be transported immediately to a shore hospital. Despite major damage suffered by his plane during the latter undertaking, Commander BURKE carried out his mission successfully and heroically. His cool courage and unswerving devotion to duty at all times as pilot in charge of aircraft constituted an inspiring example to the force under his command.

(signed August 8, 1943)