



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

**TO**

**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JEFFREY N. GARDEN  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Commander GARDEN is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as Aircraft Commander of Coast Guard HH-60J helicopter 6028, Clearwater, Florida on 2 August 1995. During the height of Hurricane ERIN, the crew of the Cruise Ship CLUB ROYALE, beleaguered by 20 to 30 foot seas and 50 knot winds, experienced uncontrollable flooding and abandoned ship 100 nautical miles east of Port Canaveral, Florida. With ceilings down to 200 feet, visibility less than 3/4 nautical miles, severe turbulence and squall lines, Lieutenant Commander GARDEN skillfully avoided numerous obstacles and destructive Hurricane feeder bands along a treacherous 200 nautical mile flight path. Once on scene, he quickly located three survivors inside a life raft and with the storm raging, expertly maneuvered the helo close to the raft to deploy the rescue swimmer. Displaying exceptional skill and composure while battling 50 knot winds and swells exceeding 30 feet, he maintained a stable hover through numerous exhausting, near zero reference hoists while bringing the survivors to safety and redeploying the rescue swimmer each time the raft was blown by hurricane force winds. Lieutenant Commander GARDEN's dedication, judgment and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

The Operational Distinguishing Device is authorized.