



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

**TO**

**COMMANDER WILLIAM GERARD FENLON  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Commander FENLON is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight from August 13, 1962, to October 25, 1962, as Coast Guard World Record Project Engineering Officer, as Aircraft Commander, and as Co-pilot, on the Grumman Albatross World Class (Amphibian) Record Program. The Albatross Record Program was a tri-service venture by the U.S. Coast Guard, Navy and Air Force aimed at eclipsing nine amphibian marks, including the only six held by the Soviet Union. During this period, the HU-16E CGNR 7255 set three world records for aircraft of this class. Commander FENLON, as Engineering Officer, helped plan these flights and maintained liaison with the Grumman Aircraft Company and the National Aeronautic Association. He ably assisted the pilot of the HU-16E CGNR 7255 in setting two world speed records on one flight August 13, 1962. As Aircraft Commander in the HU-16E CGNR 7255, on October 25, 1962, Commander FENLON set the world's non-stop distance record for aircraft of this class by flying from Kodiak, Alaska to Pensacola, Florida, a distance of 3,107 nautical miles in 18 hours and 23 minutes. This record distance flight was accomplished only after several weeks of discouraging delays, including an engine failure and single engine landing in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, during the first long distance attempt. Commander FENLON's initiative, skill, and determination led to the successful completion of the record project. His sound judgment and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.