



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT THEODORE C. LEFEUVRE
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant LEFEUVRE is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on 28 October 1985 while serving as pilot and aircraft commander of Coast Guard HH-65A helicopter 6511 engaged in rescue operations during Hurricane Juan, which lingered for days near the southern coast of Louisiana. Dispatched from Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans, Lieutenant LEFEUVRE piloted his helicopter to the scene of a disabled coastal freighter which had run aground on the eastern jetty of Southwest Pass. The severe weather, which included 40 to 50-knot winds and extremely turbulent sea conditions caused the freighter to list sharply to starboard, complicating the rescue hoists and seriously endangering the entire rescue effort. The survivors were being thrown around the cluttered deck each time a wave struck the vessel. Demonstrating excellent crew coordination and precision flying, Lieutenant LEFEUVRE maintained a hovering position over the hoist area long enough for the aircrew to hoist the survivors to safety and successfully recover the rescue basket. Lieutenant LEFEUVRE's actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in the rescue of nine lives. His courage, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.