



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

TO

**RICHARD C. WAGNER
AVIATION STRUCTURAL MECHANIC SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer WAGNER is cited for outstanding achievement while assigned as flight mechanic aboard Coast Guard HH-65A, NR6514 on 13 May 1993 during the rescue of three crewmen from the fishing vessel RESPONSE. While 18 miles from Kodiak, Alaska, the RESPONSE made a desperate plea for assistance when attempts to control an onboard fire failed. Enroute to the RESPONSE in heavy fog, 75 foot ceiling and 400 yard visibility Petty Officer WAGNER rapidly completed all pre-rescue checks in anticipation of immediate evacuations. On scene conditions placed the flight crew in extreme danger as heavy fog and smoke obscured the vessel. Flames engulfed the vessel's stern, stack and pilot house and the crew huddled on the bow. Acetylene bottles, stored below deck, threatened to explode. With incredible skill and in the face of immense personal danger, Petty Officer WAGNER conned CG6514 into the smoke and provided precise commands allowing exact placement of the rescue basket during three recoveries from the burning vessel. As a result of Petty Officer WAGNER's skill and composure, three survivors were successfully evacuated and quickly transferred to awaiting medical assistance. Petty Officer WAGNER'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.