



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

TO

**LIEUTENANT DELGENE O. PHILLIPS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant PHILLIPS is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on 15 November 1971 while serving as Aircraft Commander of Coast Guard HH-52A 1427 helicopter engaged in the perilous rescue of seven survivors from the sinking fishing vessel SARATOGA located in the storm-lashed waters of Little Tonki Bay, Afognak Island, Alaska. Experiencing gale force winds, turbulence, low ceiling and restricted visibility due to snow showers Lieutenant PHILLIPS skillfully piloted the helicopter to the scene where seven men were found clinging to a wave-washed rock. Carefully maneuvering the aircraft over the rock, he exercised outstanding airmanship to overcome the extreme turbulence, and provided a stable platform to permit hoisting three of the survivors into the helicopter. Lieutenant PHILLIPS then flew about one-half mile to a small beach and deplaned these three men. He then returned to the rock and, repeating his feat of airmanship, rescued the remaining four men. The aircraft then landed on the beach to provide warmth and shelter for all the survivors while awaiting arrival of a second helicopter to assist in transporting the men to Kodiak. Lieutenant PHILLIPS, flying the lead aircraft, encountered extreme weather conditions enroute to Kodiak. Lieutenant PHILLIPS' initiative, perseverance, and aeronautical skill contributed to the saving the lives of these seven men. His courage, sound judgment and unwavering devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.