



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

TO

**SHAWN M. VEECH
AVIATION ELECTRICIAN'S MATE SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer VEECH is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight on 12 December 1994 while serving as Flight Mechanic aboard Coast Guard HH-65A CGNR 6523 during the evacuation of 27 crew members from the motor vessel HYUNDAI SEATTLE, which had suffered an engine room fire, was adrift, and in danger of foundering in storm force winds and mountainous seas. The weather and vessel's status required that each crew member of the HYUNDAI SEATTLE be individually hoisted from the ship onto USCGC MUNRO. Upon completion of all hoist and rescue checklists, Petty Officer VEECH expertly conned the aircraft into position over the HYUNDAI SEATTLE's foredeck to commence the hoisting evolution of the stranded crew. Despite winds aloft of 50-60 knots and raging seas, he remained relaxed and confident and provided critical input to the aircrew. One by one, Petty Officer VEECH hoisted each crew member from the storm-tossed vessel, then individually lowered them to the wildly gyrating flight deck of MUNRO, until all 27 crew members had been safely transferred from the stricken ship. During the initial hoist to MUNRO a large knot developed in the hoist basket trail line. Petty Officer VEECH kept the aircrew informed and resolved the problem by completing the remaining hoists without the use of the tag line, enabling the remaining hoists to be conducted more quickly with no loss of safety. Despite the deteriorating weather, the 3-hour evolution was interrupted only once to complete in-flight refueling. Petty Officer VEECH's actions and skill were instrumental in the rescue of 27 people. 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.