



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE AIR MEDAL

TO

LIEUTENANT JOHN T. MORAN UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Lieutenant MORAN is cited for heroic achievement while participating in aerial flight as the Aircraft Commander of CGNR 6512 from 12 to 14 September 2008, during the Sector Houston-Galveston response and recovery operations to Hurricane IKE, a devastating Category 2 storm that struck Southeast Texas on 13 September 2008. Coming ashore with a storm surge of 15 feet and 100 MPH winds, Hurricane IKE decimated Galveston Island, Bolivar Peninsula and other low-lying areas, resulting in the rescue of 235 people. In the morning hours, he was dispatched into IKE's harsh winds and pounding storm surge to attempt the rescue of persons trapped on a pickup truck on Bolivar Peninsula. The seven people were in immediate danger of succumbing to the sea due to the storm surge and the imminent arrival of hurricane force winds. Lieutenant MORAN oversaw the rescue of the survivors in the bed of the pickup truck, in gusty winds between 30 and 40 knots. Planning ahead, he realized that CG6512 did not have enough fuel to save all seven survivors with a reserve. Unable to redirect another hoist capable asset, he informed the crew of the dire fuel situation and directed quick hoists to maximize the remaining fuel. With one survivor remaining, and critically low on fuel, Lieutenant MORAN was faced with the decision to leave one survivor in the truck or save his life expending reserve fuel. Expertly analyzing risk versus gain, he deployed the Rescue Swimmer for the final survivor. Through his heroic actions in executing this rescue, seven lives were saved. On his next sortie, he skillfully hoisted an injured woman while hovering between hazardous power lines, trees, and towers. Mitigating hoisting risk, he selected and executed a confined area landing to pick up five more people and subsequently took off near max gross weight, narrowly clearing obstacles while maintaining aircraft limits. Later, he rescued seven additional survivors from Bolivar's devastating wreckage. The following day, he expertly hoisted three people from a patio while coordinating the rescue with seven helicopters in the area. His crew later completed the MEDEVAC of an elderly woman. Lieutenant MORAN's actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in the rescue of 24 people. His courage, judgment, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.