



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

**TO**

**CURTIS D. WINN  
AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN THIRD CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer WINN is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while serving as Flight Mechanic aboard Coast Guard helicopter 6510 on 30 September 2000. Responding to an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon from the F/V STILL CRAZY I, 50 nautical miles south of Cape Fear, North Carolina, CG 6510 launched into heavy weather with near zero visibility. Aided by Night Vision Goggles, CG 6510 and crew skillfully navigated 110 nautical miles, utilizing the aircraft's weather radar to avoid numerous severe thunderstorms. Once on scene, CG 6510 encountered extremely hazardous conditions with low visibility, zero illumination, driving rain, 35-knot winds and 25-foot seas. Demonstrating exceptional vigilance, CG 6510 located a faint strobe light attached to a life raft carrying three survivors from the sunken F/V STILL CRAZY I. Petty Officer WINN skillfully completed the required rescue checks and assisted the pilots by providing essential position and altitude information during several attempts to establish a stable hover over the life raft. Once established in a stable hover, Petty Officer WINN maintained visual contact with the raft and survivors, provided critical conning commands to the pilots, and ensured crucial accountability of all persons in the water. Despite the pitch-black environment, violent sea conditions, strong winds and the lack of any visual cues, Petty Officer WINN expertly managed the hoist cable and rescue basket and safely recovered all three survivors and the deployed rescue swimmer. Petty Officer WINN's actions directly resulted in the saving of three 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.