



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

**TO**

**GRANT B. ROBERTS  
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer ROBERTS is cited for heroic achievement in aerial flight on the night of 1 November 2020 while serving as Rescue Swimmer aboard Coast Guard helicopter, CG6025. The crew launched at 1800L in response to Fishing Vessel IRONY's emergency beacon activated near Meyers Chuck, Alaska. For nearly the entire duration of the flight the crew encountered instrument meteorological conditions, moderate to severe turbulence, zero illumination and 60-knot winds. On scene, he employed the infrared (IR) camera, quickly locating a lone survivor clinging to debris in tightly stacked 12-foot waves. He exercised remarkable multi-tasking ability by preparing his survival equipment for the rescue while simultaneously guiding the pilots to reacquire the survivor on the IR camera, marking coordinates for the hoist. Once deployed to the water, Petty Officer ROBERTS lost sight of the survivor in the blinding spray and activated his radio to obtain vectors from the pilots. Separated by 200 yards of churning seas, he timed his scan at the crest of each wave to visually locate the survivor. He battled the unrelenting conditions for 10 minutes to reach the hypothermic man. During the recovery, when the survivor panicked dangerously in the rotor wash, he directed the aircraft to back away, gaining leverage to calm and secure mariner for rescue. Petty Officer ROBERTS' actions and skill were instrumental in the rescue of one life. 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.