



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

**AST3 KENYON C. BOLTON
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer BOLTON is cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on Coast Guard helicopter CG-6019 from 26-27 August 2005. Petty Officer BOLTON's crew was tasked with navigating through ferocious winds of Hurricane Katrina to rescue three persons on the stricken fishing vessel Mary Lynn located only 10 miles from the eye of Hurricane Katrina, 210 NM southwest of Air Station Clearwater. Displaying exceptional foresight and initiative, Petty Officer BOLTON discussed and planned for unconventional hoisting techniques with the flight mechanic. Tasked with monitoring the helicopter's altitude at 300 feet and below, Petty Officer BOLTON ceaselessly announced altitude deviations caused by dangerous downdrafts associated with the hurricane, providing a critical backup to the pilots. Upon arrival on scene, Petty Officer BOLTON fearlessly deployed into the violent 40-foot seas, enduring 85 knot winds in the process. While preparing the first survivor for the hoist, the chaotic wave action ripped the survivor from Petty Officer BOLTON's arms. Battling the extreme sea state, Petty Officer BOLTON powered through the towering waves to relocate the survivor and successfully completed the hoist. Assailed by hazardous debris, monstrous waves, and blinding sea spray, Petty Officer BOLTON heroically redeployed to the water and rescued the second survivor, while enduring the survivor's combative state. Displaying boundless determination, Petty Officer BOLTON literally forced the third survivor into the rescue strop as the survivor's terror had induced him into a semi-rigid state. Tireless in his life saving efforts, Petty Officer BOLTON rendered critical medical assistance to all three survivors including one who burned his hand to the bone while lighting a rescue flare. Petty Officer BOLTON's aeronautical skill and valor were instrumental in the rescue of three survivors. 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