



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

**TO**

### **LIEUTENANT COMMANDER DANA A. GOWARD UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Commander GOWARD is cited for heroic achievement in aerial flight on the morning of 1 August 1989 while serving as aircraft commander of Coast Guard HH-65A CGNR 6584. The aircrew was engaged in the perilous rescue of two survivors from a fishing vessel that foundered on the Sabine Pass West Jetty at the height of Hurricane Chantal. Dispatched from Air Station Houston, Lieutenant Commander GOWARD flew the helicopter through torrential rains, 70-knot winds, 200-foot ceilings and one quarter mile visibility. After arriving on scene, he immediately began a search for two crewmembers who had been swept from the vessel's decks. Unable to turn downwind in the high winds and severe turbulence, he kept the helicopter headed into the wind and coordinated crew teamwork for aft clearance and backing downwind along the search track. Lieutenant Commander GOWARD quickly located the two victims clinging to each other in the raging surf. With no visual reference and the rescue basket trailing 40 feet aft of the aircraft in the high winds, Lieutenant Commander GOWARD scooped up the two survivors. After departing the scene, Lieutenant Commander GOWARD encountered extremely violent weather, and skillfully navigated around tornados and severe thunderstorms for a safe return to Air Station Houston. Lieutenant Commander GOWARD's actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in the rescue of two persons. 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.