



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE SILVER LIFE-SAVING MEDAL

TO

**Lieutenant Commander CHARLES R. LEISY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

For heroic action on 24 December 1955 when he rescued from peril of the water, two women and two children who were marooned atop two inundated automobiles during a flood disaster at Yuba City, California. Lieutenant Commander (then Lieutenant) LEISY was serving as helicopter pilot doing rescue work when the women were sighted on the two automobiles which were almost completely covered by the flood waters. It was determined that high tension wires in the area would prevent removal by helicopter hoist, and Lieutenant Commander LEISY volunteered to be lowered upstream from the cars to attempt the rescue by rubber life raft. Despite the swift current, he successfully maneuvered the raft to the first car and removed the woman and child. He then attempted to row to the second automobile but the swiftness of the current prevented his doing so. A small helicopter was directed to the scene to attempt to push the raft in the proper direction with the air blast from the main rotor, but the effort was unsuccessful. At Lieutenant Commander LEISY's direction, the helicopter was brought down very close to the raft where he could grasp a landing skid. In this manner the raft was towed to the second automobile. With great difficulty, Lieutenant Commander LEISY succeeded in transferring the child and the incoherent, semiconscious woman to the raft which was then allowed to drift downstream to where the survivors could be hoisted aboard a rescue helicopter. Lieutenant Commander LEISY's initiative, fortitude and complete disregard for his own personal safety while endangering his life during this rescue reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Coast Guard.