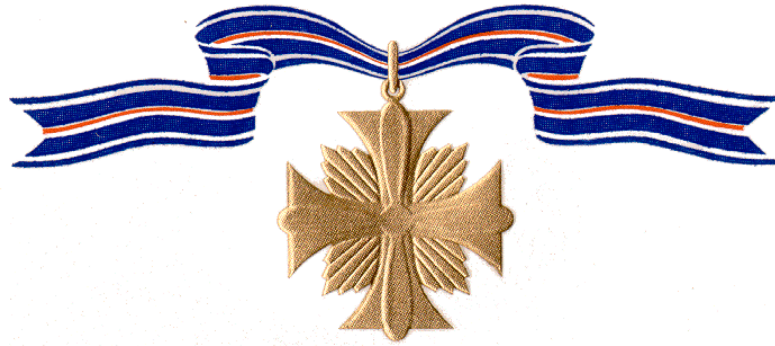


## **CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**

**TO**

### **LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE DANIEL J. MOLTHEN UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant (Junior Grade) MOLTHEN is cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 17 November 1994 while serving as copilot aboard Coast Guard HH-60J helicopter CGNR 6034. The aircrew was engaged in the rescue of a family of four from the sailing vessel MARINE FLOWER II that was being thrashed by Hurricane Gordon, 400 miles off the coast of North Carolina. Lieutenant (Junior Grade) MOLTHEN's meticulous preflight planning, constant reevaluations of the strong, shifting winds, verifications of fuel burn rates, and continual updates of groundspeed, were critical to the successful completion of both an extremely difficult rescue, and long range, 800 plus mile, over-water flight in hurricane conditions. His extraordinary aeronautical ability was evident during the day and night landings aboard the USS AMERICA. With seas breaking over the bow, he expertly guided the helicopter down to safe landings in conditions that were well out of limits for carrier flight operations. His diligent monitoring of aircraft systems, altitudes, and obstacles allowed the pilot to better concentrate on hoisting the mother and 4-month-old infant out of the storm tossed seas. His efforts allowed the crew to complete the rescue evolution expeditiously, when fuel endurance was critical. With the rescue completed, he navigated the helicopter back to the USS AMERICA. Lieutenant (Junior Grade) MOLTHEN's actions, aeronautical skill, and valor were instrumental in the rescue of four 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.



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DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS**

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**LIEUTENANT DANIEL J. MOLTHEN  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant MOLTHEN is cited for extraordinary achievement in aerial flight while serving as aircraft commander aboard Coast Guard HH-60 helicopter 6042 on the night of 22 December 1997. The crew was engaged in the dramatic rescue of a survivor from the 36-foot Fishing Vessel CALLISTO that sank in an Alaskan gale 40 miles south of Sitka, Alaska. Lieutenant MOLTHEN expertly navigated through 45-knot winds and one-quarter mile visibility in blowing snow and sleet to the scene. The lone survivor was stranded in a life raft being blown towards the treacherous rocky coastline and pounding surf. As the helicopter approached the raft it became clear that the severity of the turbulence would make maintaining a stable hover impossible. The 20-foot waves rebounded off the nearby rocks causing a doubly confused sea state, which violently tossed the life raft. As the crew struggled to deliver the rescue basket to the survivor, brutal downdrafts from the nearby cliffs repeatedly drove the helicopter down to within 40-feet of the raging sea. Allowing the pilot to concentrate on delivering the rescue basket to the survivor, Lieutenant MOLTHEN meticulously monitored the helicopter's altitude and routinely was forced to apply maximum power to prevent the helicopter from impacting the waves. Undaunted by the overwhelming conditions, Lieutenant MOLTHEN implemented innovative rescue techniques, one after the other, determined to save the imperiled mariner. After struggling in a constant hover for nearly an hour, and with the survivor now only yards from the rocks, the crew miraculously delivered the rescue basket to the rafts entrance, allowing the survivor to leap into the rescue basket where he was hoisted to safety. Lieutenant MOLTHEN's actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental to the successful rescue. 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.