

PREAMBLE TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE COAST GUARD AVIATION ASSOCIATION'S 2021 VICTOR ROULUND MERITORIUS ON-SCENE PERFORMANCE AWARD

Description:

The Victor Roulund Award recognizes quick-thinking individuals within U.S. Coast Guard Aviation, who have taken risks and improvised in extraordinary circumstances, with the intent to save a life or lives. The Victor Roulund Award is co-sponsored by Mr. Roy Vander Putten, and the Coast Guard Aviation Association (CGAA), and was originally established in 2015. It is awarded every two years, on the odd numbered years.

Background:

This award is named in honor of AD2 Victor Roulund, USCG, who, on 24 December 1955, was part of the augmented crew of an HO4S (a variant of the Sikorsky H-19/S-55) helicopter, deployed to Marysville, in Northern California. PO2 Roulund's crew faced daunting weather and rescue challenges in the vicinity of the Yuba River, where countless people were seriously stricken in sudden, extreme flooding conditions. Within a 12-hour span of operations, PO2 Roulund, and his three fellow crewmembers, rotated in and out of the helo, and in total, hoisted 138 people.

In one situation, in the pre-dawn darkness, Roulund was lowered to the roof of a house trailer, that was floating down the Feather River. Then, his crew and helicopter departed scene to assist others in peril.

Alone, risking his personal safety, he solved the extraordinary challenges of: determining that a disabled, immobile person was, in fact, inside the sinking structure; finding a way into that trailer; locating that panicked person inside; carrying her through the rising water and darkness to the door; signaling with his wet, yet miraculously reliable, flashlight for his helo to return; then placing her into the rescue basket, all before the trailer sank, capsized, or collided with a large object, most likely seriously injuring or killing both of them.

There was one last hope for Mrs. Dingeman, and for all who loved her. Victor Roulund's efforts to be her "one last hope" place him among the quick-thinking Coast Guard members - before him and after him - who improvised in the real world of high winds, cold seas, and chaos. In addition, he operated well outside of what was routinely regarded as normal crew duties," with the intent to save a life or lives.

Yet, the story of Victor Roulund's deed was almost forgotten Therefore, he is an appropriate person to draw attention and recognition to the deeds of other excellent on-scene performers - before they are forgotten.

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**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE COAST GUARD AVIATION ASSOCIATION'S
2021 VICTOR ROULUND MERITORIUS ON-SCENE PERFORMANCE AWARD**

TO

**JAMES A. CHANDLER
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN SECOND CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer Chandler is cited for outstanding achievement while serving as a rescue swimmer on Coast Guard helicopter MH-65 No. 6581, in response to Tropical Storm IMELDA in Southeastern Texas from September 18th through September 20th, 2019.

Tropical Storm IMELDA rapidly developed and made landfall in less than an hour bringing more than 43 inches of rain and catastrophic flooding to the area. On one occasion during the period, battling low ceilings, heavy rain and widespread thunderstorms, the 6581 launched to perform a MEDEVAC of an unresponsive patient with diminishing vital signs. Once on scene, Petty Officer CHANDLER swiftly assessed the situation and prepared the patient for transport. His quick actions resulted in minimum ground time, thereby increasing the patient's chances of survival. Immediately recognizing the woman's critical condition, he instructed the Flight Mechanic on the use of a bag valve mask in order to provide her with supplemental oxygen, allowing Petty Officer CHANDLER to focus on chest compressions, providing CPR for the 30 minute transit to Ellington Field. There, the patient was transferred to an awaiting ambulance.

Due to the severe lack of available medical personnel, the ambulance crew requested that Petty Officer CHANDLER continue to provide lifesaving care in the ambulance for the 45 minutes enroute to a hospital. Once there, the patient was stabilized and ultimately recovered. Petty Officer CHANDLER's efforts directly resulted in the saving of a life. His professional skill, judgment and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the actions, ideals, and inspiration demonstrated by award namesake, Petty Officer Victor Roulund.



Michael D. Emerson
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President, Coast Guard Aviation Association