



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

**TO**

**AET2 SHAWN K. BEATY  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer BEATY is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight from 30 August 2005 to 31 August 2005, aboard Coast Guard HH-60J helicopters CG 6017 and CG 6014 during Hurricane Katrina rescue operations. Petty Officer BEATY courageously saved lives by hoisting them to safety from rooftops, porches, and the flood ravaged streets of New Orleans. On 30 August 2005, Petty Officer BEATY'S aircrew was to take a Federal Emergency Management Agency representative to conduct a post-hurricane damage survey but was diverted to rescue operations when Petty Officer BEATY spotted a woman frantically flagging down the aircraft from a stranded houseboat in the middle of a street. With expert direction and conning commands from Petty Officer BEATY, the aircraft landed amid downed trees and power lines so the Rescue Swimmer could assess the distraught woman's condition. This quick response enabled the crew to provide immediate medical assistance to her husband, who suffered back injuries and was in diabetic shock. After safely transporting the woman, her critically injured husband, and another traumatized survivor to a hospital in Slidell, Louisiana, Petty Officer BEATY and his crew hoisted 18 survivors from rooftops and confined decks and stoops, including a man suffering from a heart attack who was recovered in the litter. To complete the hoists, Petty Officer BEATY used unproven direct deployment techniques that required precise communications and unparalleled aeronautical ability. On 31 August, Petty Officer BEATY tested the limits of his endurance by rescuing 47 survivors through 14 successful basket hoists and 13 high-risk rescue swimmer deployments, the majority completed at night in a hazard-rich environment. Many of these difficult hoists and deployments, including the safe recovery of two pregnant women, were completed from sloping rooftops riddled with debris. Petty Officer BEATY's actions and aeronautical skill were instrumental in saving 68 lives. 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.