



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

**TO**

**AMT2 STEVEN JOHN CONRAD  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer CONRAD is cited for heroic achievement in aerial flight on 31 August 2005, while serving as flight mechanic aboard Coast Guard 6034 during Hurricane Katrina rescue operations. Demonstrating exemplary aviation skills, judgment and initiative Petty Officer CONRAD operated at the very limits of endurance. Once on scene, he canvassed the devastated landscape, quickly locating 11 survivors clustered on a school rooftop seeking refuge from the rapidly rising flood waters. Utilizing two rescue swimmers, Petty Officer CONRAD executed a series of timed deployments which expedited the recovery evolution. His innovative application of a maritime search and rescue technique reaped huge dividends as all survivors were safely recovered in less than 10 minutes. Displaying exceptional awareness, Petty Officer CONRAD conducted repeated hoists while simultaneously noting the location of several other survivors. He then prioritized the rescue sequence based upon their proximity to the rising hood waters. Questioning a survivor onboard, he learned of a woman trapped in the bedroom of a home engulfed by more than 15 feet of water. Petty Officer CONRAD directed the helicopter into the only position from which the rescue could be attempted. Hovering within 15 feet of power lines and debris and being violently thrashed about by the rotorwash, he deployed one of the rescue swimmers to the rooftop while the other was directly deployed into a second story window. Unable to maintain visual contact with the swimmer and trapped survivor, he was forced to conduct the hoist by hand signals from the second swimmer precariously perched on the roof of the flooded house. Petty Officer CONRAD's actions were instrumental in saving 28 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.