

Public Service Commendation

to

KEVIN THOMPSON

The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes great pleasure in presenting the United States Coast Guard Public Service Commendation to KEVIN THOMPSON for his commendable actions on the morning of April 15, 1994 during the rescue attempt of two Naval aviators following the crash of their jet into San Francisco Bay. Mr. THOMPSON was the Captain of the fishing vessel ONE HOPE 150 fishing south of the San Francisco Bay Bridge with his crewman, Edgar Tecun, and six passengers. Shortly before noon, a Navy A-6 INTRUDER jet from NAS Alameda passed overhead and crashed violently into the water approximately one quarter mile away from his position. Acting quickly, Mr. THOMPSON radioed a MAYDAY to the Coast Guard and boldly piloted his vessel into the wreckage-strewn waters in search of survivors. Working his way through jet fuel and debris, he came upon one of the critically injured pilots floating face down and severely entangled in his parachute. Skillfully pulling his vessel alongside the airman, Mr. THOMPSON and his crewman pulled him to his gunwale and turned him face up. The pilot's injuries were severe and Mr. THOMPSON did what he could to prevent his passengers, five of whom were ten year old boys, from being exposed to the trauma. At this time a Coast Guard utility boat arrived. Mr. THOMPSON and Mr. Tecun then assisted in lifting the pilot to the deck of the Coast Guard boat for transport to medical personnel waiting on Yerba Buena Island. The second airman was recovered by another boat on scene. By responding so quickly, Mr. THOMPSON greatly enhanced the Coast Guard's mission of Search and Rescue. Mr. THOMPSON displayed outstanding courage, initiative, and skill in his efforts. His actions in less than ideal conditions are a credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of all those who go to sea.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



Public Service Commendation

IN RECOGNITION *of notable services which have assisted greatly in furthering the aims and functions of the Coast Guard*

This certificate is awarded to

72 Kevin Thompson

Executed this 26th day of May 1994

at Long Beach California

1996. 7. 26.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. D. Herr".

For the Commandant
R. D. HERR
Rear Admiral, United States Coast Guard
Commander, Eleventh Coast Guard District