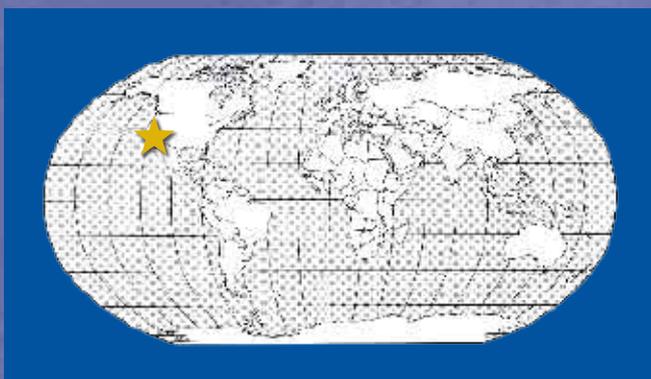




Donald L. Prince
Lieutenant Commander
Class of 1956



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Air Medal to
Lieutenant Commander Donald L. Prince
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

For meritorious achievement in aerial flight on December 22, 1964 while serving as pilot of a Coast Guard helicopter engaged in the rescue of persons stranded by the flooding Eel River in Northern California. The helicopter departed the San Francisco Air Station and proceeded to the Humboldt Bay area, approximately 200 miles north, in response to a report that 16 persons were stranded on an island. Lieutenant Commander Prince, then Lieutenant, under extremely adverse weather conditions in mountainous country, skillfully piloted his aircraft to the scene, and upon arrival, rescued 10 persons at Cock Robin Island before the lack of fuel forced him to proceed to Arcata Airport. After refueling, he immediately returned to the flooded area and resumed rescue operations. As darkness set in, Lieutenant Commander Prince hoisted two adults and a child to safety. On his next flight, he hoisted three more persons from the flooded area. However, while attempting to land them safely at Arcata Airport, the helicopter crashed, killing all on board. Lieutenant Commander Prince's fine airmanship contributed to the safe rescue of 13 persons from peril. His initiative, skill, courage and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

Lieutenant Commander Prince was killed in the line of duty.
