



Paul A. Langlois

Commander
Class of 1976



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Distinguished Flying Cross to
Commander Paul A. Langlois
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on the night of 12 February 1997 while serving as aircraft commander of the Coast Guard HH-65A helicopter, CGNR 6589. The aircrew was engaged in the rescue of two people from the dismantled, disabled sailing vessel GALE RUNNER taking on water off the Washington Coast. Commander Langlois flew the helicopter over 85 miles solely on instruments, radar, and his copilot's night vision goggles, in adverse weather conditions. After he was diverted to briefly search for a Coast Guard motor lifeboat also dispatched to assist the GALE RUNNER, he was directed to return to rescue the persons aboard the GALE RUNNER, now in imminent danger of grounding on rocks. Commander Langlois navigated the helicopter between the sea stacks, and located the vessel but was unable to safely use the helicopter's Hover Augmentation System and the rescue basket until he repositioned over the vessel to safely hoist the victims. He landed the helicopter at Station Quillayute River and directed the search efforts for the missing motor lifeboat crew. Commander Langlois' actions, aeronautical skill, and valor were instrumental in the rescue of two people. 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.

Commander Langlois retired at the rank of Captain.
