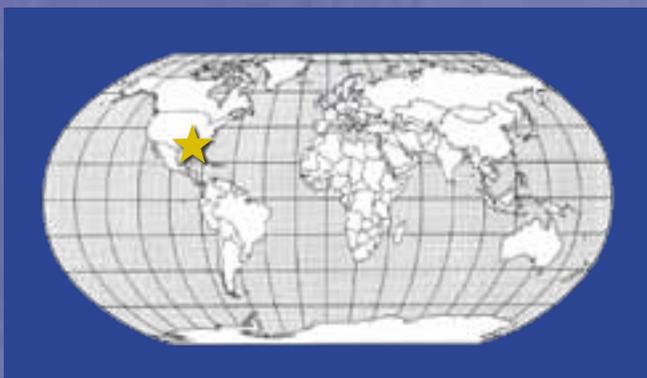




William F. McMeekin

Commander
Class of 1982



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Distinguished Flying Cross to
Commander William F. McMeekin
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on the Coast Guard HH-60Js from 27 August to 02 September 2005. On 27 August, Commander McMeekin flew into winds of excess of 75 knots near the eye of Hurricane KATRINA to provide rescue support and communications for CG 6019 who rescued three persons from the disabled fishing vessel MARY LYNN. Afterwards, he located the F/V MARIA RITA in distress and rescued its sole fisherman. At midnight on 29 August, Commander McMeekin flew through the outer bands of Hurricane KATRINA to reach the flood zones in New Orleans and assist the survivors of the storm as one of the first responders. Commander McMeekin flew over 25 hours and conducted 56 hoists. During the night of 30 August, Commander McMeekin expertly maneuvered the helicopter into an obstructed parking area, and flew CG 6017 to an adjacent position to deliver over one thousand pounds of critical emergency medical supplies and paramedics to Tulane University Hospital. Commander McMeekin fought crew fatigue, 300 foot cloud ceilings, and limited visibility to expertly hoist and transport an additional 43 distraught hurricane victims from rooftops to safe havens, rescuing 55 storm victims in all. 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 McMeekin retired at the rank of Commander.