



Brian A. Kudrle
Commander
Class of 2005



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
Citation to Accompany the Award of
The Distinguished Flying Cross
Lieutenant Commander Brian A. Kudrle
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

Lieutenant Commander KUDRLE is cited for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight from 25 to 30 August 2017, as an Aircraft Commander aboard Coast Guard MH-60T helicopters during Hurricane HARVEY rescue operations. In the immediate wake of the hurricane, Lieutenant Commander KUDRLE courageously flew through winds in excess of 80 knots near the eye of the storm to rescue two survivors clinging desperately to a heavily damaged, roofless home surrounded by rising storm surge floodwaters. Battling severe turbulence, Lieutenant Commander KUDRLE carefully hoisted the survivors through downed power lines, trees, and storm debris and transferred them to Corpus Christi Hospital for medical care. Spearheading the Coast Guard's MH-60T response in Houston, Texas, Lieutenant Commander KUDRLE led his crew into an unknown situation as they braved strong wind, torrential rain, and near zero visibility. On scene, he immediately affected four medical evacuations and hoisted 23 survivors from an inundated apartment complex. In the evening, while hovering above wires with the aircraft's rotor blades mere feet from treetops, Lieutenant Commander KUDRLE expertly conducted a litter hoist of a quadriplegic through tall trees amongst flailing power lines from an air mattress floating in the flood waters below. With cloud ceilings at 400 feet and visibility reduced to one eighth of a mile, he then skillfully navigated around towers at night to deliver the patient to a hospital pad fouled by overhanging cranes. Performing at the extreme limits of his skill and endurance, Lieutenant Commander KUDRLE flew over 30 hours of arduous day and night rescue missions in an unfamiliar urban disaster environment. Lieutenant Commander KUDRLE's actions, aeronautical skill and heroism were instrumental in the rescue of 107 lives. His courage, judgment and devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.