



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

COAST GUARD MEDAL

TO
CHARLES W. SEXTON
MACHINERY TECHNICIAN FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
FOR
HEROISM

ON 11 JANUARY 1991

GIVEN THIS 9th DAY OF April 19 91




J. W. KIME
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Commandant

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

**THE COAST GUARD MEDAL
(POSTHUMOUSLY)**

TO

CHARLES W. SEXTON

MACHINERY TECHNICIAN FIRST CLASS

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Petty Officer SEXTON is cited for extraordinary heroism on 11 January 1991 while serving as emergency medical technician aboard Coast Guard Motor Lifeboat MLB 44381. The boatcrew was responding to a distress call from the F/V SEA KING, a 75-foot stern trawler with four persons onboard which was taking on water and in danger of sinking, four nautical miles northwest of the Columbia River Bar. With her decks awash and after compartment and engine room steadily filling up with water. From the relative safety of the motorlifeboat, Petty Officer SEXTON unselfishly volunteered to go aboard the foundering fishing vessel to treat the injuries of a SEA KING crewmember who had fallen to the deck during a failed helicopter hoist. He skillfully diagnosed the victim's injuries, informed the flight surgeon of the extent of the injuries and provided first aid treatment. Once the victim was stabilized, Petty Officer SEXTON turned his attention to assisting with the dewatering of the vessel. The SEA KING required several dewatering pumps to remove the initial quantity of sea water from the engine room. Then, hourly dewatering of the vessel was necessary to maintain proper trim aboard the vessel. After more than 6 hours of this exhausting routine, with the worst of the treacherous bar crossing behind them, the SEA KING suddenly, without warning, rolled over, throwing victims into the churning seas and trapping Petty Officer SEXTON in the enclosed pilot house. He went down with the vessel, sacrificing his life while attempting to save the lives of the SEA KING's crewmembers. Petty Officer SEXTON demonstrated remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude and daring in spite of imminent danger in this rescue. His courage and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

