



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO
TYLER D. GANTT
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN THIRD CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
FOR

EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM FROM 25 AUGUST TO 1 SEPTEMBER 2017

GIVEN THIS 29th DAY OF July 2019



Karl L. Schultz
Karl L. Schultz
Admiral U. S. Coast Guard
Commandant

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

**TYLER D. GANTT
AVIATION SURVIVAL TECHNICIAN THIRD CLASS
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Petty Officer GANTT is cited for extraordinary heroism while participating in aerial flight from 25 August to 1 September 2017, as a Rescue Swimmer aboard Coast Guard MH-65D helicopters during Hurricane HARVEY rescue operations. Petty Officer GANTT was the Coast Guard's first rescue swimmer deployed in response to the flooding in Houston, launching at 0230L well below operational weather minimums, into an unfamiliar operating area at night with winds gusting over 80 knots, visibility below 50 feet and torrential rain to respond to a critically-ill pregnant woman trapped by rising waters in her attic. Battling severe turbulence while performing the hoists, Petty Officer GANTT was repeatedly deployed from over 150 feet through a small opening between active power lines to search for and triage the ill woman. Displaying remarkable physical stamina and judgment for his first-ever Coast Guard search and rescue case, he evaluated, prioritized, and swam the woman and her family one by one through the flood waters to be hoisted through 125-foot trees and power lines. In a subsequent hoist, Petty Officer GANTT dove from the roof into the swift-moving water to grab an infant who was swept away from his father. Recognizing the dire situation, the crew instantly performed a high-risk physical grip recovery; descending rapidly below the power lines and trees from 150 feet to 25 feet to minimize the risk to the infant. Petty Officer GANTT then located additional survivors signaling from a home being quickly engulfed by the flood waters. Without the use of a chainsaw, he tore through the roof to extract and hoist the seven people to safety before water overtook the home. Petty Officer GANTT's aeronautical skill and heroism were instrumental in the rescue of 59 people. 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.

