

Citation for
THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA
Gold Medal

To: George R. Lockamy
Aviation Survival Technician Third Class
United States Coast Guard

Petty Officer LOCKAMY is cited for meritorious achievement in aerial flight from the 1st through the 3rd of September 2005 during Operation Katrina Life Saver in metropolitan New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Demonstrating exemplary aeronautical skill and superlative physical stamina Petty Officer LOCKAMY served as a rescue swimmer aboard HH-65 helicopters for 14 flight hours, performing rescues in an urban search and rescue environment.

After hoisting three survivors off a roof and nearing weight limitations, the aircraft departed leaving Petty Officer LOCKAMY on scene. While on the roof he heard survivors screaming for help from inside the flood devastated home. Wielding the aircraft crash axe he began cutting an egress into the roof and discovered three men trapped within.

Upon guiding the three men onto the roof Petty Officer LOCKAMY returned inside to continue the search; again he heard cries for help. This time the cries resonated from the second floor below him. Scrambling to locate a way down he found a set of collapsible stairs that crumbled when lowered. Heeding the cries for help, without concern for his own safety, he jumped ten feet down onto the floor and located three more survivors, one a wheelchair bound diabetic.

Knowing the only way to save them was to get them to the roof Petty Officer LOCKAMY quickly inventoried the area; securing and stacking two coolers as a platform. He then directed the two able men to assist as he lifted the man and his wheelchair up into the attic. Despite exhaustion from heat and dehydration, Petty Officer LOCKAMY remained steadfast and directed the same grueling procedure to the roof. After hours of arduous work, eight people were hoisted to safety.

During another rescue, Petty Officer LOCKAMY witnessed a woman collapse, overwhelmed by her plight; he was immediately deployed to provide her assistance. During the arduous hoist he became entangled in a tree and, while struggling feverishly to free himself, fell 10 feet and landed on the hood of a car. Impervious to the pain, Petty Officer LOCKAMY continued toward the collapsed woman wading through heavily polluted floodwater to reach her.

Once at her side, he realized she was alive but in need of immediate evacuation. Unable to hoist her from the present location, Petty Officer LOCKAMY carried the woman to a safer area where she was hoisted and transported to a medical facility.

Petty Officer LOCKAMY'S actions, skills, and heroism were instrumental in saving 77 lives. 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.