

Richard L. Burke Lieutenant Class of 1927



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Flying Cross to Lieutenant Richard L. Burke UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

For service as set forth in the following Summary:

On 13 June, 1933, Lieutenant Burke piloted the seaplane ADHARA from the Coast Guard Air Station at Gloucester, MA to the fishing trawler SHAWMUT through fog and rain to rescue a severely injured seaman. Able to navigate solely on radio bearings due to the adverse weather, Lieutenant Burke deftly piloted the seaplane to a position 130 miles offshore. Once on scene, heavy swells around the vessel made the landing and takeoff of the seaplane exceedingly perilous. Lieutenant Burke was able to successfully land the seaplane, load the injured seaman onto the plane and takeoff enroute to Boston airport. Once the seaplane had safely landed at the airport, a waiting ambulance carried the injured seaman to the Unites States Marine Hospital where his life was saved due to prompt medical attention.

Lieutenant Burke was a Coast Guard aviation pioneer who later served as the Chief, Aviation Division of the Coast Guard before retiring at the rank of Captain after more than 20 years of service.