



Ronald J. Davies

Lieutenant Junior Grade
Class of 1964



**The Secretary of the Treasury takes pleasure in presenting
the COAST GUARD MEDAL to
Lieutenant Junior Grade Ronald J. Davies
United States Coast Guard**

For service as set forth in the following Summary:

In the early morning hours of April 8th, 1966 an urgent radio message was intercepted, reporting fire aboard the Norwegian passenger vessel Viking Princess. A total of 235 passengers and 246 crew were aboard. The Cook Inlet arrived on scene and found Viking Princess fully aflame and apparently abandoned. Paint on the outside of the hull was beginning to scorch and blister over large areas from the intense interior heat. Lieutenant Junior Grade Davies, Cook Inlet's Damage Control Officer, was one of the first to board, over a 30-foot debarkation ladder hanging from the windward quarter. As the Rescue and Assistance Team advanced toward the fire boundary they could see the rivets around the doorway frames glowing in the dark, "looking like the gates to hell". All members of the party voluntarily underwent great peril in proceeding below decks in heavy smoke where routes of access were unfamiliar and the extent of the fire's travel could not be clearly discerned. No evidence of survivors was found, and after about a half hour the Commanding Officer of Cook Inlet could see from the pattern of smoldering paint on the outside that the fire was advancing beneath the boarding party, and ordered their withdrawal. No survivors were found on board, and after two days, it was established that all personnel were accounted for.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Davies continued his career in engineering, and retired at the rank of Captain.
