

Distinguished Public Service Award to Fire Fighter Two Alika Winter

The Commandant of the United States Coast Guard takes great pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Public Service Award to Fire Fighter Two Alika WINTER for his efforts to save the crew members of Coast Guard Helicopter 6505. On the night of 4 September 2008, Honolulu Fire Department Rescue Two was called to assist in the search and rescue efforts of Coast Guard Helicopter 6505 after it crashed in the water approximately 3 miles offshore. After arriving at the crash scene, Fire Fighter Two WINTER put his own life at risk in an effort to rescue the aircrew by repeatedly diving into the water beneath the severely damaged wreckage which was unstable and in danger of sinking. His professionalism in following cervical spine protection protocols and maintaining an airway while recovering two trapped crewmembers provided them the best chance for survival. Although the aircrew did not survive the crash, his selfless efforts provided assurance to the families of the aircrew of the diligence of the rescue efforts. Fire Fighter Two Alika WINTER's unselfish actions and valiant service are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.