

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**



The Commandant

TAKES GREAT PLEASURE IN PRESENTING THE

GOLD LIFESAVING MEDAL

TO

KEVIN MARK EMERSON

FOR EXTREME AND HEROIC DARING

IN SAVING OR ENDEAVORING TO SAVE LIVES FROM PERILS OF THE SEA.

24 JULY 2006

Given this 11th day of January 2008




Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commandant

On behalf of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Commandant takes great pleasure in presenting the GOLD LIFESAVING MEDAL posthumously to

K. MARK EMERSON

For services set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For extreme and heroic daring on the morning of 24 July 2006, during the rescue of John Rosenberry, Jr., (age 8) and Joshua Bowman (age 9), who had been pulled into the pounding surf by a powerful riptide while swimming off Portsmouth Island, North Carolina. Without regard for his own personal safety, Mr. EMERSON entered the surf zone to save John who was seen struggling against the currents as a strong riptide pulled him into deep water. Concurrently, Joshua Bowman followed Mark into the water in an effort to assist, and ultimately became a second rescue victim. When Mr. EMERSON reached John, he noted that Josh was also caught in the current near the surf zone, and began swimming toward him with John in tow. In a noble display of heroism, Mr. EMERSON struggled to keep the two boys afloat while another adult, Mr. John Rosenberry, Sr., swam out and took the boys, one by one, back to the beach. With his last ounce of energy, Mr. EMERSON successfully passed the second boy, Josh Bowman, to the waiting arms of his fellow rescuer and sank beneath the waves as he succumbed to physical exhaustion. If not for Mr. EMERSON’s selfless and fearless response, two young boys would have been lost to the sea. Mr. EMERSON sacrificed his own life so others may live. His unselfish actions and valiant service, despite imminent personal danger, reflect great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of humanitarian service.”

