



MERITORIUS SERVICE AWARD

presented to

Jonathan Kellermann

for the extensive part that you played as a member of NSRI Station 5 Durban, the Air Sea Rescue Unit as well as the NSRI in general over the past 8 years.

The award is intended to recognise administrative and operational achievements, such as dedicated service as a Station Commander or the efficient coordination of all elements involved in a rescue, all of which you have indeed surpassed.

You joined NSRI on the 17th February 2016, and have so far given 8 years of service to NSRI to date. During this time, you progressed through the ranks, from trainee to crew, to rescue swimmer. You became a Coxswain Class 3 in August 2019 and then Coxswain Class 1 in June 2022.

You also served as a helicopter rescue swimmer and have successfully completed many rescues in this regard. To be involved in this program requires a level of sacrifice of time above and beyond that expected of NSRI boat crews, with a higher level of physical fitness and extra training and skill commitments needing to be met.

On your boat station, you were elected Station Commander in September 2019. Upon taking over the station, you quickly established a new way of operations that enabled the crew to feel comfortable and confident to follow you, which led to a healthy growth in the number of crew, and their competence.

The Durban NSRI station is a large and operationally busy Class 1 Station, with a range of complex rescue operations from offshore Medevacs to inland swift water operations. The asset scope and value of this station are the most extensive in the NSRI organisation, especially considering that the station had just received the very first ORC Class 1 vessel that same year. Despite these challenges, you led the station with respect and success, with a healthy response and safety record.

The Durban NSRI station, through Covid, became the busiest "Medevac" station, conducting nearly 100 Medevacs over those few years, which was a relatively new requirement from the station. Considering that this evolution took place during and after the first lockdown, with the attendant fears and unknown, the leadership required to inspire the crews to conduct these operations safely was first class.

Your leadership was not free of difficult times. Firstly, the KZN unrest caused immense societal and economic pressure on many of our volunteers, who looked to you for calm and clear guidance during a chaotic time, and again during the KZN floods where over 600 people lost their lives in the Province. The station's very effective and adaptive response to the disaster, in no small part based on the culture of leadership that you had instilled contributed to dozens of lives saved over that period.

On a lighter note, the station also holds the Guinness Book of Records for lining up 11,602 lollipops end to end, set in October 2022!

Above and beyond the very full operational service to NSRI as described above, you have added value from your professional background and networks.

As a member of the NSRI Futures Committee, you have contributed to various checklist and dispatch automation tools, and you have contributed extensively to the development of Standard Operating Procedures and the administration around that, which has paved the way for an impact of your leadership for years to come.

We salute you for your full and active service. This organisation is a better place for your contribution.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dave Macready'.

Dave Macready
Chairman: Board of Directors



21 July 2023

Date