



GALLANTRY AWARD

BRONZE

Presented to

Deon Dekker

From 11 to 13 April 2022, days of heavy rain across KwaZulu-Natal led to deadly floods. Particularly hard-hit were areas in and around Durban. At least 435 people died across the province, with an unknown number of people still missing as of 13 April 2022. Several thousand homes were damaged or destroyed. The flooding impacted critical infrastructure, including major roads, transportation, communication and electrical systems, and this damage greatly hampered rescue, recovery and relief efforts.

Deon Dekker is being recognised for his courage and determination on 11 April 2022 when he and members of his NSRI Station, along with the national and local emergency services, rendered aid and assistance in multiple flood-related incidents. These incidents occurred along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline and inland due to heavy rainfall, resulting in devastating floods in Durban and surrounding areas.

In particular, we acknowledge Deon's role on Kevin Fourie's Team and his actions in the rescue of over 200 people from a variety of predicaments during the 15 hours the Team operated along the freeway and side roads between Isipingo, Prospecton and Umgababa. Especially noteworthy is the work done by Deon on board Superintendent Jace Govender's Sardine Boat, rescuing over 60 people over an 11-hour period. The river flowing in the roads was so strong that sometimes the Sardine Boat, driven by an 85HP Yamaha, was pushed backwards. The obstructions, including submerged cars, could not be seen and were a constant danger as was the flood debris. Exhausted, the Team stood down at 17:30.

Deon Dekker's bravery that day, going to the aid of persons in trouble, in known dangerous conditions, without concern for his safety, was in the very finest traditions of the National Sea Rescue Institute, which we are pleased to recognise with this Gallantry Award Bronze.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Velloza'.

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



19 July 2024

Date