



## GALLANTRY AWARD

# GOLD

Presented to

### Johan Muller

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.

Johan Muller 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 Johan's part of Quentin Power's Team and his own actions in the joint rescue of over 170 people found in a variety of predicaments down Peter Road where people were found trapped on house roofs, vehicles, cranes and

building windows. By this time, the speed of the water on the main roads was flowing at about 60km an hour. Especially noteworthy is Johan's rescue of 4 security guards and their security dog trapped on a building roof. This required Johan to swim some 20m from the rescue craft over a submerged 8m security fence to reach the guards and the dog, which was first to jump in the water and swim back with Johan to the boat, displaying his gratitude by hugging Johan when in the boat. The 4 guards, fearful of entering the swirling waters, had to be coaxed into the water one by one and swum across to the rescue craft and thence to safety. And then Johan's subsequent support of Quentin's rescue of a missing security guard trapped in a building surrounded by water, by breaking him out of the building by creating a hole in the roof to pull him to safety, within minutes of him being fully engulfed.

Johan Muller'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 Gold.

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

Jonathan Velloza  
Chairman: Board of Directors



19 July 2024

Date