



GALLANTRY AWARD

GOLD

Presented to

Travis Clarke

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.

Travis Clarke 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 Travis's role on Kevin Fourie's Team and his actions in the rescue of some 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 difficulty experienced by Kevin and his team to rescue a man and a young girl from a tree along the freeway, firstly using a JetRib and then transferring with Kevin to Superintendent Jace Govender's Sardine Boat after the JetRib ingested debris. Once Jace had navigated to the tree, Travis entered the water and using PFDs and throw lines, with Kevin in the boat, retrieved the two people from the tree, one by one, across the raging river of flood water, into the boat and then safely ashore. This process was repeated in Isipingo retrieving several casualties from trees and roofs, floating on vehicles, floating on drums and containers, with 27 people alone rescued from the first floor of a contaminated chemical factory. This included rescuing Lifeguards and their casualties from their capsized rescue craft caught in a whirlpool. Exhausted, the Team arrived back at the Base by 17:30, refuelled and ready to launch again.

Travis Clarke' 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 'Velloza'.

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



19 July 2024

Date