



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Presented to

Dion Beneke

From 11 to the 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. Critical infrastructure, including major roads, transportation, communication and electrical systems, were impacted by the flooding, and this damage greatly hampered rescue, recovery and relief efforts.

Dion Beneke 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 Dion's part in Jarrod Garber's Team and his own actions while working through high deep mud clearing homes, assisting homeowners to safety, responding to trapped people in mud-flooded buildings and managing the Helicopter LZ established at Isipingo to bring batches of people to safety from flooded areas. The Team covered an area from Umdloti to Isipingo, performing back breaking work to inspect and clear damaged buildings through the night into the following day.

Dion Beneke's personal bravery that day, going to the aid of persons in trouble, in known dangerous conditions, without concern for his own safety, was in the very finest traditions of the National Sea Rescue Institute, which we are pleased to recognise with this Meritorious Service Award.

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

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



19 July 2024

Date