



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Presented to

Nicky Gibson

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.

Nicky Gibson is being recognised for her courage and determination on 11 April 2022 when she and members of her 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 Nicky's role on Kevin Fourie's Team and her own actions in supporting the rescue of over 200 people from a variety of predicaments during the 15 hours

the Team operated. Especially noteworthy is the work done by Nicky who manned the NSRI Rescue Vehicle, while parked on a rise in the road from 02:30 till 18:00, surrounded by rising flood waters until the vehicle and trailer were completely trapped, eventually able to drive off the "island" in the late afternoon, water still up to the doors. During this time, she operated the communications network and took incoming distress calls for assistance, at times deeply moving and traumatic, from people desperate for help and the concomitant dispatching of rescue teams to respond to the numerous ongoing incidents, maintaining an extensive log with constant follow-up calls to support efforts to rescue people. Exhausted, the Team stood down at 17:30.

Nicky Gibson's bravery that day, going to the aid of persons in trouble, in known dangerous conditions, without concern for her 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 'J. Velloza'.

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



19 July 2024

Date