



# MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Presented to

## Station 2 – Bakoven

For their courage, determination and skill displayed during an Operation that started on the evening of 20 October 2023 and continued into the morning of 21 October, when NSRI Station 2 Bakoven responded to a call to aid 11 fishermen whose craft was disabled and sinking off Green Point Lighthouse in Force 10 storm conditions. Station 2 would prove instrumental in the location of the casualty vessel that evening.

The 8m RIB fishing vessel carrying 11 crew on board had been swamped by the prevailing conditions and was now at risk of capsizing and sinking. At this stage they had water-contaminated fuel tanks and complete electrical failure. Their presumed location was 1 nautical mile West of Robben Island (RI) and drifting rapidly out to sea due to the intense South Easterly winds, which at this point were gusting in the region of 55 knots.

NSRI Station 2 launched their rescue vessel Gemini Legend 6.5m RIB just after midnight in dark, moonless conditions. After navigating treacherous seas with guidance from the Shore Control Crew at the Bakoven Rescue Base, they located a low-lying blue and grey RIB at 01:16, 3 nautical miles West of RI and 9 nautical miles off Green Point lighthouse, with 11 crew on board in a fragile but stable condition.

NSRI Station 3 in the V&A Waterfront had since launched their Class1 14m Rescue Craft DHL Deliverer

and joined Rescue 2 at the casualty position, arriving at 01:40 the morning of 21 October 2023. With the assistance of Rescue 2 crew, all casualty survivors were transferred to Rescue 3 by 01:55 and accompanied by Rescue 2 the casualty vessel was towed slowly to Table Bay Harbour, where she sank at her mooring later that morning.

The time then was 04:00 and with the worsening sea conditions, it was decided to leave Rescue 2 also moored in the safety of port to be recovered again a few hours later once it was daylight and the weather had eased somewhat.

NSRI Station 2 Crew and Shore Control displayed a level of professionalism, skill and determination that was in the very finest traditions of the National Sea Rescue Institute, which we are pleased to recognise with this Meritorious Service Award.

**R2 Crew:** Luke Van Riet (Cox'n)  
Robert Leusink (Crew)  
Reece Sheldon (Crew)  
Jacobus Johannes Le Roux (Crew)

**Shore Control:** Bevan Geyser (Deputy Statcom)  
Dirk Coetzee (Crew)  
Jacques Liebenberg (Crew)

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

Jonathan Velloza  
Chairman: Board of Directors



19 July 2024

Date