



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Presented to

Thomas Steenkamp

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. 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.

Thomas Steenkamp from IPSS is being recognised for his courage and determination on 11 April 2022 when he and members of the NSRI Station 5, along with the national and local emergency services, rendered aid and assistance in multiple flood-related incidents along the KwaZulu-Natal coastline and inland caused by the heavy rainfall and devastating floods in the Durban and surrounding areas.

In particular, we acknowledge Thomas's part in assisting Tyron Brennan's team and

his own actions in the rescuing of a family of 3 trapped in their beds in their collapsed house in Westville as a result of surging flooding and landslides. After extracting the son from his room using a portable jaws-of-life to lift a collapsed exterior wall, they tackled the extraction of the parents, using a sledgehammer for 2 hours to break through the collapsed house to extract the father, who with 2 broken feet managed to crawl from his crushed room to safety. The mother had unfortunately passed away from her injuries and her body was extracted and handed into forensic care.

Thomas Steenkamp's dedication and professionalism 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 'J. Velloza', written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



19 July 2024

Date