



## DIRECTORS' THANKS

The Directors of The National Sea Rescue Institute  
accord their thanks to

### Jannie Janssen

for his part as flight engineer on Court Helicopters 61 Sikorsky ZS RAX on 26 April 1994 when tasked to go to the assistance of the crew of the crane barge BOS 400, adrift in gale force conditions in Maori Bay, near Llandudno, Cape Town.

That afternoon, the line from the tug towing the BOS 400 parted in the NW gale then blowing, with 50/60 knot winds, rain squalls and heaving 9 metre swells, and the barge drifted into Maori Bay. The barge's captain declared a MAYDAY and asked for his 18 man crew to be taken off the foundering vessel. Court Helicopters were requested by Cape Town Port Control to do so. Capt. John Pocock, a duty pilot that day, was given the task, with a crew comprising co-pilot Capt Brent Curtin, Flight Engineer Jannie Janssen and NSRI crewmen Phil Ress and Howard Godfrey from Station 3, Table Bay.

On arrival on scene the flying conditions were wild and Capt. Pocock, assisted by Capt. Curtin, exhibited great expertise in positioning ZS RAX above the BOS 400 helipad where its crew had

gathered awaiting evacuation. Flight Engineer Jannie Janssen also exhibited great dexterity in the lowering of the helicopter's double strop line to the BOS 400 deck but the crew below did not know how to use it. Phil Ress was then asked to descend onto the helipad in those dreadful conditions to assist the barge crew. He did so and the barge crew were winched up, two at a time and assisted into the helicopter by Jannie Janssen and Howard Godfrey.

When there were still 7 crew to be evacuated a huge squall came through, forcing ZS RAX to fly away and abandon the rescue operation temporarily, leaving Phil and the remaining crew to hang onto everything that they could to keep their footing in the treacherous conditions. On its return the remaining crew and Phil were then lifted into the helicopter and transported back to the Court Helicopters base in Cape Town.

Your skill and bravery that date undoubtedly saved the crewmen on the BOS 400 for which we in NSRI salute you.

**Ronnie Stein**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors



4th June 2021

Date