



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Presented to

Station 3 – Table Bay

For their courage and determination during a challenging rescue operation launched at 14h04 on Thursday, 13 June 2024, following reports of a capsized fishing boat between Saunders' Rock and Queen's Beach, Bantry Bay.

NSRI Table Bay, NSRI Bakoven and the City of Cape Town's water rescue network were activated after eyewitnesses saw the vessel capsize just beyond the surf zone. It was unclear how many people were on board.

Dirk Coetzee from NSRI Bakoven (Station 2) was first on the scene. By this time, he had already alerted NSRI Table Bay of the situation and had requested their assistance by sending a vessel to the scene. Dirk was soon joined by Station 2 rescue swimmers Jannes le Roux, Russell Goodman, Tiaan de Kock and Pieter van Heerden. Under Dirk's guidance, the swimmers entered the dangerously rough surf at various points to begin the search.

The rescue swimmers proceeded to enter the water, reach the first casualty, and one rescue swimmer swam the young man to shore. He was later confirmed as the only survivor of this tragic event. The other three rescue swimmers continued to swim to a second man, believed to be in his 60s, who was unresponsive in the water off Queen's Beach.

By this time NSRI Table Bay's vessel, Spirit of Day, had already been launched and quickly reached the rescue swimmers and the casualty. All four were extracted onto the vessel and CPR commenced and continued en route to Three Anchor Bay where

paramedics continued efforts. Sadly, the man was declared deceased.

At this time, it was confirmed that three people had been on board the small open fishing boat. With two located, one remained missing.

By 14h25, Paula Leech from NSRI Table Bay (Station 3) and Grant Back from NSRI Bakoven (Station 2) had already started coordinating the sea and air search. The capsized boat washed ashore near Queen's Beach and SAPS confirmed no one was trapped in the wreck.

After an intensive sea, air and shoreline search, the third casualty was spotted in the surf by Skymed. An EMS Metro rescue diver deployed from the helicopter, secured the man and was extracted to the parking area where CPR was initiated. Tragically, he too was declared deceased.

By 14h55, all casualties had been recovered and NSRI crews stood down.

The NSRI Table Bay (Station 3) crew demonstrated extraordinary courage, and teamwork in difficult and dangerous conditions. They showed dedication and exceptional skill and efficiency, ensuring the quick retrieval of one of the casualties and the rescue swimmers. These qualities reflect the highest standards of the National Sea Rescue Institute.

We are proud to recognise their actions with this **Meritorious Service Award**.

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

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



15 August 2025

Date