

## MINE WARFARE HALL OF VALOR

Minesweeping Helicopter Crewmen  
Explosive Ordnance Disposal Divers  
Underwater Demolition Team Divers  
Minesweep Sailors  
Minelayer Sailors  
Minemen

Navy Cross Medal



### World War II

Gordon Abbott  
Dwight Merle Agnew  
Robert Lee Brock  
John Richard Cox, Jr.  
Frank Alfred Davis  
Thurlow Weed Davison  
Ross Tompkins Elliott, Jr.  
Earl W. Ferguson  
Charles Arthur Ferriter  
Richard Ellington Hawes  
William Harold Johnson  
William Leverette Kabler  
James Claude Legg  
Wayne Rowe Loud  
William Leroy Messmer  
George R. Mitchell  
John Henry Morrill  
Herbert Augustus Peterson  
George Lincoln Phillips  
Alfred Humphreys Richards  
Egbert Adolph Roth  
William Scheutze Veeder  
Stephen Noel Tackney  
Donald C. Taylor  
John Gardner Tennent, III  
Peyton Louis Wirtz

### Korean War

D'arcy V. Shouldice

### Vietnam War

Cecil H. Martin  
John W. O'Kelley

## Silver Star Medal



### World War II

Henry R. Beausoleil  
Thomas Edward Chambers  
Wilbur Haines Cheney, Jr.  
Asa Alan Clark, III  
Joe Brice Cochran  
Benjamin Coe  
Ralph W. Cook  
Nicholas George Cucinello  
Thurlow Weed Davison  
James Louis Foley  
Edward Lee Foster  
William Handy Hartt, Jr.  
James William Haviland, III  
Robert Messinger Hinckley, Jr.  
Charles C. Kirkpatrick  
Stanley Leith  
Edgar O. Lesperance  
Lindell H. McCain  
Ellsworth Dudley McEathron  
Jack Forest Meeker, Jr.  
Jack A. Offins  
Paul R. Pogreba  
Donald Brewster Ramage  
Everett Burgess Reed  
William Arthur Richards  
Robert Roy Sampson  
Glen Frederick Slipsager  
James Howard Steele  
Floyd M. Symons  
Alton Louis Clifford Waldron  
Charles Ernest Weinmann  
Samuel H. Wood  
Sanford Elza Woodard

### Korean War

Stephen Morris Archer  
Vail P. Carpenter  
Ernest Carl Castle  
Henry E. Davies, Jr.  
Don C. DeForest  
Edward P. Flynn, Jr.  
Robert C. Fuller, Jr.  
Stanley Platt Gary  
Nicholas Grkovic  
William D. Haines  
Bruce M. Hyatt  
T. R. Howard  
Philip Levin  
Harry L. Link  
Orville W. McCubbin  
William Russell McKinney  
Aubrey L. McIlvaine  
James Patrick McMahon  
Cornelius E. McMullen  
Robert E. Shewmaker  
Richard O. Young

### Vietnam War

Larry Gene Aanderud  
Arnold Roy Ahlbom  
Edward Joseph Hagl  
James Edward Hannigan  
John O. Hood  
William D. Jones  
Charles R. Schlegelmilch  
Richard Lee Schreifels

## Bronze Star Medal



### World War II

William E. Beckham, Jr.  
Lewis C. Bryan  
Franklin Duerr Buckley  
John S. Buckley  
Alexander Bacon Coxe, Jr.  
Ralph P. Fiebach, Jr.  
George D. Harrelson  
Willard Young Howell  
Onofrio F. Salvia  
Henry J. White

### Korean War

Ray B. Andresen  
Philip E. Carrico  
Charles R. Chandler  
Daniel F. Chandler  
Christie J. Coleman  
Lucio De La Calzada  
James DeMaio, Jr.  
William B. Derry  
Harold Elston  
William J. Giannotti  
Allen J. Glassey  
Edward M. Hazzard  
James W. Hoag  
Billie La R. Johnson  
Dennis J. Keane, Jr.  
Robert H. Larkin  
Charles F. Laws  
Philip M. Master  
James Patrick McMahon  
James K. Sellers  
Joseph F. Staley  
Willis B. Taylor  
Ralph C. Voltmer  
Robert H. Walker

### Vietnam War

Ellwood W. Arnell  
Thomas E. Copp  
John C. Cotton  
Donald DeCrona  
Donald S. Duncan  
J. Doug Hunter  
Dan R. Hyatt  
William W. Johnson  
Shelly J. Kelly  
William H. Kersting  
Jack A. Koning  
Harman R. Maddocks  
Cecil H. Martin  
Peter J. Mermagen  
Wade E. Olson  
B. E. 'Rebb' Rebbetoy  
Lawrence E. Ronan  
Richard Lee Schreifels  
Theodore R. Weeks, Jr.  
Edward T. Whaley  
Robert W. Wilson  
Stephen R. Woodall  
Rulon Jay Young

### Iraq/Afghanistan Wars

Paul Lluy  
Glenn Niemitalo  
Michael Taylor

## Prisoner of War Medal



The four officers and sixty-one men of the USS *Penguin* (AM-33) killed in action, captured or executed by the Japanese during or after the fall of Guam, and four crewmembers of the USS *Bittern* (AM-36), USS *Finch* (AM-9), and USS *Quail* (AM-15) captured by the Japanese during the fall of the Philippines

### World War II

David Martin Allen	Seba Guarland Hurd	Lorenzo Everett Rathbun
Verne Nicholas Bairey	Cecil Edmond Hinton	Earl Martin Ratzman
Arthur Wise Benson	Edward Neal Howard	Reginald Walter Reed
Robert Maclean Brown	Howard James	William James Reed
Andrew James Carrillo	Clarence Bruce Johnston	V. A. Salas
J. Cepeda	Michael L. Krump	John Wilbur Sawyer
R. Chargualaf	Olin Sumner Lake	John Schweighardt
J. C. Concepcion	Floyd Lumpkins	Walter Senchuk
E. Cruz	Robert Brown MacLean	Edward Wayne Settles
J. J. Cruz	Sverre Walter Magelssen	Gilbert James Shaw
Harry Willard Davidson	Jose Matanane	James Madison Smith
John Robert Dean	John Graham McFarlane	Jack Wadsworth Staff
Bobbie Epperson	Lester William McKenzie	Clifford D. Stansberry
Robert Walter Ernst	Lee George Mills	Lawrence Byron Stephens
Jesus Lujan Flores	Ernest Molnar	J. L. Taitano
Joaquin Lago Flores	Roy Leon Morrisette	Norman Sidney Tattrie
Rollin George Fraser	Bob Stuart Seashols	J. G. Tenorio
Thomas Guzman	Robert William O'Brien	C. Vergara
Ralph Henry Gwinnup	Frank James O'Neill	Robert Gabriel White
Edward Everett Hale	Robert Torell Olson	Melvin Cecil Wilkerson
Joseph Hanzsek	Rae Patterson	Rex Elwood Wilson
Thomas Theron Haskins	J. A. Perez	Edwin Allen Wood
James William Haviland, III	Leo Joseph Pineault	Robert William Zimmer

## Navy and Marine Corps Medal



### World War II

Ronald M. Alexander  
Robert Briggs  
Mead Brokaw Kibbey  
Raymond J. Ludack  
Anthony M. "Mickey" Schovel

### Korean War

Armando P. Morilos  
Joseph J. Polackwich, Jr.  
Lewis W. Yore

### Cold War/Peace Time

William Glenn Arnold  
Greg A. Ball  
Billy Ray Beddingfield  
William H. Berryman  
Jessica Lorraine Brown  
James V. A. Conkey  
Buddy A. Conley  
Donald R. Cook  
Wilbur H. Grose, Jr.  
Kenneth E. Harder  
Robert J. Reed

## UNIT AWARDS

Following the above summary of recipients of awards for valor (and before the associated award citations) is a list of unit awards and combat action ribbons earned by mine warfare commands and ships. The order of precedence of these awards is:

- Combat Action Ribbon
- Presidential Unit Citation
- Navy Unit Commendation
- Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Air Force Unit Award
- Coast Guard Unit Commendation

For each citation or commendation, recipients are arranged generally by type of ship and within type of ship, in chronological order. In some cases, different types of ships and/or other mine warfare units are listed under a particular operation in which they participated.

Award citations for the Navy Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Navy and Marine Corps Medals recipients follow the next few pages of unit award summaries.

**Presidential Unit Citation**  
**Highest award a military unit may receive for heroism**  
**(No associated medal)**



**Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)**

Iwo Jima, Japan:

UDT Twelve 17-28 February 1945

**Destroyer-Minelayers (DM)/Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT)**

Okinawa, Japan:

USS *Aaron Ward* (DM-34) 3 May 1945  
USS *Harry F. Bauer* (DM-26) 24 March – 11 June 1945  
USS *Henry A. Wiley* (DM-29) 23 March – 24 June 1945  
UDT Eleven 29 March – 15 April 1945  
UDT Twelve 27 March – 8 April 1945

**Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)**

Brunei Bay, Borneo:

UDT Eleven 8-10 June 1945

**Minesweepers (AM)/Yard Minesweepers (YMS)/  
Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)**

Balikpapan, Borneo:

USS *Scout* (AM-296) 15 June – 1 July 1945  
USS *Scuffle* (AM-298) 15 June – 1 July 1945  
USS *Sentry* (AM-299) 15 June – 1 July 1945  
YMS-9, 10, 39, 46, 47, 49, 15 June – 1 July 1945 YMS-39, 50, and 365 lost at Borneo  
50, 52, 53, 95, 196, 314, 315,  
335, 336, 339, 364, 365, 366,  
368, 392  
UDT Eleven 25 June – 4 July 1945

**Minesweepers (AM)/Auxiliary Motor Minesweepers (AMS)**

Wonsan, Korea:

Commander, Mine Division 10-24 October 1950  
31 and staff (embarked in USS *Mockingbird* AMS-27)  
Commander, Mine Division 11-12 October 1950  
32 and staff (embarked in USS *Pirate* AM-275)  
USS *Chatterer* (AMS-40) 10-24 October 1950  
USS *Incredible* (AM-249) 10-24 October 1950  
USS *Kite* (AMS-22) 10-24 October 1950  
USS *Merganser* (AMS-26) 11-24 October 1950  
USS *Mockingbird* (AMS-27) 10-24 October 1950  
USS *Osprey* (AMS-28) 10-24 October 1950  
USS *Partridge* (AMS-31) 10-24 October 1950 Later lost off Sokckco, Korean  
USS *Pirate* (AM-275) 11-12 October 1950 Lost at Wonsan

USS *Pledge* (AM-277) 10-12 October 1950 Lost at Wonsan  
USS *Redhead* (AMS-34) 11-24 October 1950

### **Minesweeping Boats (MSB)/River Patrol Craft (RPC)**

Vietnam: Based at Nha Be for operations on the Long Tau River:

Mine Squadron Eleven, Detachment Alfa:

*MSB-14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19,* 1 June 1966 – *MSB-14, 22, 45, and 54* lost during  
*20, 21, 22, 31, 32, 45, 49, 51,* 18 February 1967 the Vietnam War  
*52, 54, RPC-1, RPC-2*

### **Minesweeping Boats (MSB)/Landing Craft Motorized Minesweepers LCMM (LCMMs were later redesigned Medium Minesweepers MSMs)**

Vietnam/Based at Nha Be, Da Nang, and Cam Ranh Bay:

Mine Division 112 24 June 1969 – 28 February 1970

### **Minesweeping Drones (MSD)/Medium Minesweepers (MSM)/ River Minesweepers (MSR)**

Vietnam/Based at Nha Be, Ben Luc, Chau Doc, Cua Viet, Dong Tam and Tan Chau:

Mine Division 113 6 December 1968 – 31 March 1969  
24 June – 10 August 1969

### **Ocean Minesweeper (MSO)**

Operation SEA LORDS:

USS *Leader* (MSO-490) 18 October - 5 December 1968

### **Navy Unit Commendation (No associated medal)**



## **WORLD WAR II/EUROPEAN THEATER**

### **Minesweeping Boats/Craft**

Southern France:

Small Boat Mediterranean 15 August – 30 September 1944  
Minesweeping Unit  
Element 10

## **WORLD WAR II/PACIFIC THEATER**

### **Destroyer-Minesweepers (DMS)**

Solomon Islands, South Pacific:

USS *Hopkins* (DMS-13) 7 August 1942 – 4 June 1944  
USS *Hovey* (DMS-11) 7 August 1942 – 17 May 1944 Later lost at Lingayen Gulf  
USS *Southard* (DMS-10) 7 August 1942 – 17 May 1944  
USS *Trever* (DMS-16) 7 August 1942 – 22 June 1944  
USS *Zane* (DMS-14) 7 August 1942 – 1 August 1943

### **Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT)**

#### Mariana Islands:

UDT Seven 14 June – 23 July 1944

#### Guam, Mariana Islands:

UDT Four 16-22 July 1944

### **Yard Minesweeper (YMS)/Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)**

#### Western Carolina Islands:

YMS-325 12 September – 10 November 1944

UDT Seven 13-14 September 1944

### **Destroyer-Minelayers (DM)/Destroyer-Minesweepers (DMS)**

#### Angaur, Peleliu, and Kossol Passage:

USS *Hamilton* (DMS-18) 12-15 September 1944

USS *Hovey* (DMS-11) 12-15 September 1944 Later lost at Lingayen Gulf

USS *Long* (DMS-12) 12-15 September 1944 Later lost at Lingayen Gulf

USS *Montgomery* (DM-17) 12-15 September 1944 Later lost at Ngulu Lagoon

### **Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)**

#### Leyte Gulf, Philippines:

UDT Four 18-21 October 1944

### **Destroyer Minesweeper (DMS)/Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)**

#### Lingayen Gulf, Philippines:

USS *Hopkins* (DMS-13) 6-7 January 1945

UDT Fourteen 7-12 January 1945

### **Yard Minesweeper (YMS)**

#### Leyte Gulf, Lingayen Gulf, and other Mine Clearance Operations in the Philippines:

USS *Requisite* (AM-109) 10 October 1944 – 1 March 1945

### **Minesweepers (AM)/Yard Minesweepers (YMS)**

#### Manila Bay, Philippines:

USS *Salute* (AM-294) 14-18 February 1945 Later lost at Borneo

USS *Saunter* (AM-295) 14-18 February 1945

USS *Scout* (AM-296) 14-18 February 1945

USS *Scrimmage* (AM-297) 14-18 February 1945

USS *Scuffle* (AM-298) 14-18 February 1945

USS *Sentry* (AM-299) 14-18 February 1945

USS YMS-6, 8, 46, 48, 50, 14-18 February 1945 YMS-48 lost at Manila Bay

53, 314, 315, 329, 334, 335,

336, 339, 363, 364

### **Underwater Demolition Team (UDT)**

#### Iwo Jima, Japan:

UDT Fourteen 17 February – 1 March 1945

### **Destroyer-Minelayers (DM)/Destroyer-Minesweepers (DMS)/ Minesweeper (AM)/Yard Minesweeper (YM)/**



## Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT)

### Okinawa, Japan:

USS <i>Adams</i> (DM-27)	24 March – 1 April 1945	
USS <i>Butler</i> (DMS-29)	24 March – 22 June 1945	
USS <i>Emmons</i> (DMS-22)	24 March – 6 April 1945	Lost at Okinawa
USS <i>Gwin</i> (DM-33)	24 March – 24 June 1945	
USS <i>J. William Ditter</i> (DM-31)	24 March – 6 June 1945	
USS <i>Macomb</i> (DMS-23)	24 March – 11 May 1945	
USS <i>Requisite</i> (AM-109)	23 March – 2 September 1945	
USS <i>Robert H. Smith</i> (DM-23)	24 March – 24 June 1945	
USS <i>Rodman</i> (DMS-21)	24 March – 22 June 1945	
USS <i>Shea</i> (DM-30)	24 March – 4 May 1945	
USS <i>YMS-311</i>	6 April 1945	
UDT Four	28 March – 22 April 1945	
UDT Seven	29 March – 1 April 1945	
UDT Fourteen	29 March – 7 April 1945	

## KOREAN WAR

### Minesweeping Boats/Craft

#### Wonsan, Korea:

Small Boat Minesweeping Unit Element Ten	10 October – 24 November 1950
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### Destroyer Minesweepers (DMS)/Auxiliary Motor Minesweepers (AMS)/ Minesweeping Boats

#### Port of Chinnampo, Korea:

USS <i>Carmick</i> (DMS-33)	28 October – 25 November 1950
USS <i>Thompson</i> (DMS-38)	28 October – 25 November 1950
USS <i>Gull</i> (AMS-16)	2-23 November 1950
USS <i>Pelican</i> (AMS-32)	2-23 November 1950
USS <i>Swallow</i> (AMS-36)	2-23 November 1950
Minesweeping Boat Unit Task Element 95.69	29 October – 29 November 1950

### Auxiliary Motor Minesweepers (AMS)

#### Korea:

USS <i>Kite</i> (AMS-22)	18-29 July 1952
	15-26 November 1952
USS <i>Murrelet</i> (AM-372)	10-31 May 1952
USS <i>Osprey</i> (AMS-28)	16 April – 19 May 1952
	12-15 October 1952
USS <i>Redhead</i> (AMS-34)	7 May – 5 June 1952
	12 August – 8 September 1952
	12-15 October 1952

**Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel (LCVP) and/or Motor Launches  
(Configured for minesweeping)**

Wonsan, Korea:

Minesweeping Boat                      7-30 April 1952  
Division One

Wonsan/Hungnam, Korea:

Minesweeping Boat                      7 August – 2 September 1952  
Division One

Kojo, Korea:

Minesweeping Boat                      12-15 October 1952  
Division One

**VIETNAM WAR**

**Minesweeping Boats (MSB)/Landing Craft Motorized Minesweepers LCMM  
(LCMMs were later redesigned Medium Minesweepers MSMs)**

Vietnam/Based at Da Nang:

Mine Division 112                      16 August 1966 – 15 May 1969  
Detachment One

Vietnam/Based at Cam Ranh Bay:

Mine Division 12                      1 June 1969 – 25 November 1970  
Detachment Two

**Minesweeping Drones (MSD)/Medium Minesweepers (MSM)/  
River Minesweepers (MSR)**

Vietnam/Based at Nha Be, Ben Luc, Chau Doc, Cua Viet, Dong Tam and Tan Chau:

Mine Division 113                      2 January 1969 – 31 March 1969

**Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)**

Operation MARKET TIME, Vietnam:

USS *Endurance* (MSO-435)              1 November 1965 – 1 June 1966  
USS *Pivot* (MSO-463)                      1-30 January 1967

Recovery of Nuclear Weapon off Palomaras, Spain:

Mine Division Eighty-Four:

USS *Nimble* (MSO-459)                  24 January – 24 February 1966  
USS *Pinnacle* (MSO-462)                21 January – 24 February 1966  
USS *Sagacity* (MSO-469)                21 January – 24 February 1966  
USS *Skill* (MSO-471)                      21 January – 24 February 1966

Mine Division Eighty-Five:

USS *Ability* (MSO-519)                  21 February – 29 March 1966  
USS *Notable* (MSO-460)                21 February – 29 March 1966  
USS *Rival* (MSO-468)                    21 February – 8 April 1966  
USS *Salute* (MSO-470)                  21 February – 8 April 1966

Sea Battle off the Cua Co Chien River, Republic of Vietnam:

USS *Endurance* (MSO-435)              22 November 1970

## COLD WAR

### Minesweeping Helicopters (MH-53E Sea Dragon)

#### Gulf of Suez and Red Sea/Operation INTENSE LOOK:

Helicopter Mine August 1984  
Countermeasures  
Squadron Fourteen HM-14

### Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)/

### Minesweeping Helicopters (MH-53E Sea Dragon)

#### Persian Gulf/Operation EARNEST WILL:

Task Unit 801.4.7 19 November 1987 – 23 April 1988  
Helicopter Mine  
Countermeasures  
Squadron Fourteen HM-14  
Atlantic Fleet Ships:  
USS *Fearless* (MSO-442)  
USS *Illusive* (MSO-448)  
USS *Inflct* (MSO-456)  
Pacific Fleet Ships:  
USS *Conquest* (MSO-488)  
USS *Enhance* (MSO-437)  
USS *Esteem* (MSO-438)

### Minesweeping Boats (MSB)

#### Panama/Naval Force Southern Command:

Mine Division 127 20 December 1989 – 31 January 1990

## POST-COLD WAR

### Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)/Mine Countermeasures Vessels (MCM)/ Minesweeping Helicopters (MH-53E Sea Dragon)

#### Persian Gulf/Operation DESERT STORM:

Commander, U.S. Mine 17 January – 7 February 1991  
Countermeasures Group  
MCM Group Staff 6 March – 11 July 1991  
Arabian Gulf Battle Force 17 January – 7 February 1991  
Helicopter Mine 17 January – 7 February 1991  
Countermeasures  
Squadron Fourteen HM-14  
USS *Adroit* (MSO-509) 17 January – 7 February 1991  
13 May – 1 June 1991  
USS *Avenger* (MCM-1) 17 January – 7 February 1991  
USS *Impervious* (MSO-449)  
USS *Leader* (MSO-490)

#### Persian Gulf:

USS *Ardent* (MCM-12) 1 October 1997 – 30 April 1998

USS *Dextrous* (MCM-13) 1 October 1997 – 30 April 1998  
 MCM Rotational Crew Alpha 16-20 December 1998  
 MCM Rotational Crew Echo 16-20 December 1998

Persian Gulf/Operation IRAQI FREEDOM:

U.S. Fifth Fleet Strike Force 1 January-1 May 2003  
 USS *Cardinal* (MHC-60) 1 January – 1 May 2003  
 USS *Raven* (MHC-61) 1 January – 1 May 2003  
 Commander MCM 1 January-1 May 2003  
 Division Thirty-One  
 U.S. Sixth Fleet 24 February – 20 April 2003  
 Task Force Sixty  
 Mine Warfare Readiness 24 February – 20 April 2003  
 Group Two  
 USS *Chief* (MCM-14) 24 February – 20 April 2003  
 USS *Devastator* (MCM-6) 24 February – 20 April 2003  
 USS *Scout* (MCM-8) 24 February – 20 April 2003  
 USS *Sentry* (MCM-3) 24 February – 20 April 2003

**Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation  
 (No associated medal)**



**PACIFIC FLEET**

**Ocean Minesweepers**

Vietnam War:

Mine Division Ninety-One:

USS *Conflict* (MSO-426) 1 October 1965 – 30 June 1966  
 USS *Dynamic* (MSO-432) 1 October 1965 – 30 June 1966  
 USS *Implicit* (MSO-455) 1 October 1965 – 30 June 1966  
 USS *Persistent* (MSO-491) 1 October 1965 – 30 June 1966

Mine Division Seventy-Two:

USS *Embattle* (MSO-434) 11 November 1966 – 6 May 1967  
 USS *Firm* (MSO-444) 11 November 1966 – 6 May 1967  
 USS *Force* (MSO-445) 11 November 1966 – 6 May 1967  
 USS *Prime* (MSO-466) 11 November 1966 – 6 May 1967  
 USS *Reaper* (MSO-467) 11 November 1966 – 6 May 1967

Lost during the war

Mine Division Ninety-Two:

USS *Energy* (MSO-436) 1-30 January 1967

Mine Division Ninety-One:

USS *Conflict* (MSO-426) 1 September 1967 – 31 May 1968  
 USS *Dynamic* (MSO-432) 1 September 1967 – 31 May 1968  
 USS *Endurance* (MSO-435) 1 September 1967 – 31 May 1968  
 USS *Implicit* (MSO-455) 1 September 1967 – 31 May 1968  
 USS *Persistent* (MSO-491) 1 September 1967 – 31 May 1968

Mine Division Seventy-Two:

USS <i>Embattle</i> (MSO-434)	5 May – 7 September 1968
USS <i>Firm</i> (MSO-444)	5 May – 7 September 1968
USS <i>Loyalty</i> (MSO-457)	5 May – 7 September 1968
<u>Commander Task Force 115 (Mine Flotilla One at Guam):</u>	
USS <i>Force</i> (MSO-445)	2 March – 15 December 1972
USS <i>Fortify</i> (MSO-446)	2 March – 15 December 1972
USS <i>Impervious</i> (MSO-449)	2 March – 15 December 1972
USS <i>Inflit</i> (MSO-456)	2 March – 15 December 1972

#### **Coastal Minesweepers**

USS <i>Whippoorwill</i> (MSC-207)	1 July 1967 – 1 October 1968
USS <i>Widgeon</i> (MSC-208)	1 June 1968 – 13 September 1969

#### **Minesweeping Boats (MSB)/Landing Craft Motorized Minesweepers LCMM (LCMMs were later redesigned Medium Minesweepers MSMs)**

##### Vietnam/Based at Da Nang:

Mine Division 112	1 November 1967 – 31 July 1970
Detachment Two	

##### Vietnam/Based at Cam Ranh Bay:

Mine Division 112	1 November 1967 – 31 July 1970
Detachment Two	

#### **Minesweeping Drones (MSD)/Medium Minesweepers (MSM)/ River Minesweepers (MSR)**

##### Vietnam/Based at Nha Be, Ben Luc, Chau Doc, Cua Viet, Dong Tam and Tan Chau:

Mine Division 113	11 August 1969 – 30 April 1971
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##### Long Beach, California/Support of Mine Divisions 112 and 113 in Vietnam:

Mine Division 111	1 May 1968 – 1 July 1970
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### **ATLANTIC FLEET**

#### **Mine Countermeasures Support Ship (MCS)**

##### Based at Charleston, South Carolina/Operations in West Indies/South Atlantic:

USS <i>Ozark</i> (MCS-2)	18-25 May 1969
	16-23 July 1969

#### **Special Minesweeper (MSS)**

##### Development/Testing of Mine Countermeasures Vessel:

Minesweeper Special (MSS 1)	20 June – 15 October 1969
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#### **Minesweeping Launches (MSL)**

##### Based at Charleston, South Carolina:

Mine Squadron 10	16 September – 22 October 1970
MSL Detachment	

#### **Minesweeping Helicopters (MH-53E Sea Dragon)**

##### Suez Canal/Operation NIMBUS STAR:

Helicopter Mine

Countermeasures

Squadron Fourteen HM-14

Task Group 65.1                      12 March – 3 June 1974  
Task Unit 65.1.1                      12 March – 3 June 1974  
Task Unit 65.1.2                      12 March – 3 June 1974

**Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)**

Standing Naval Force Channel NATO Deployment:

USS *Illusive* (MSO 448)                28 September 1978 – 25 June 1979  
USS *Leader* (MSO-490)                28 September 1978 – 25 June 1979

Mediterranean Anti-submarine Operations:

USS *Alacrity* (AG-520)                8 August – 30 November 1974  
USS *Assurance* (AG-521)            8 August – 30 November 1974

Western Atlantic/Caribbean Operations:

USS *Alacrity* (AG-520)                13 February – 22 May 1977  
USS *Assurance* (AG-521)            13 February – 22 May 1977

**Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)/Minesweeping Boats (MSB)/  
Minesweeping Helicopters (MH-53E Sea Dragon)**

Bilateral/Multilateral Mine Countermeasures Operations:

Mine Countermeasures                27 April – 8 October 1981  
Task Group 1-81  
USS *Illusive* (MSO-448)  
Mine Division 125  
*MSB-15*                                      17 June – 13 December 1981  
*MSB-41*                                      17 June – 13 December 1981  
Helicopter Mine  
Countermeasures  
Squadron Fourteen HM-14

**Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)**

Standing Naval Force Channel NATO Deployment:

USS *Fearless* (MSO-442)                1 May 1983 – 30 April 1984

Ship Excellence Awards:

USS *Impervious* (MSO-449)            1 January 1984 – 31 December 1985  
USS *Exploit* (MSO-440)                1 October 1986 – 2 November 1987  
1 January 1989 – 31 December 1990

**Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)**

Persian Gulf/Operation EARNEST WILL:

Commander,                              1 June 1987 – 31 October 1988  
Mine Squadron Two

Persian Gulf/Operation DESERT STORM:

Commander                              2 August 1990 – 15 August 1991  
Mine Squadron Two

## PACIFIC FLEET

### Mine Countermeasures Vessels (MCM)

#### Persian Gulf Mine Countermeasures Operation:

USS *Guardian* (MCM-5) 20 October – 22 November 1991

#### Far East Operations from Sasebo, Japan Homeport:

Commander MSM 1 April – 30 October 1994

Squadron One

USS *Guardian* (MCM-5) 1 April – 30 October 1994

USS *Patriot* (MCM-7) 1 April – 30 October 1994

## ATLANTIC FLEET

### Mine Countermeasures Vessels (MCM)/ Minesweeping Helicopters (MH-53E Sea Dragon)

#### Persian Gulf/Bahrain:

Helicopter Mine 1 January 1999 – 10 September 2001

Countermeasures

Squadron Fourteen HM-14

Detachment One

MCM Rotational Crew Alfa 1 January – 2 June 1999

Commander MCM Squadron 1 January 1999 – 10 September 2001

MCM Rotational Crew Alfa 1 January 1999 – 10 September 2001

MCM Rotational Crew Charlie 1 January 1999 – 10 September 2001

MCM Rotational Crew Delta 1 January 1999 – 10 September 2001

MCM Rotational Crew Echo 1 January 1999 – 10 September 2001

MCM Rotational Crew Foxtrot 1 January 1999 – 10 September 2001

MCM Rotational Crew Hotel 1 January 1999 – 10 September 2001

### Combat Action Ribbon (No associated medal)



### Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)/Coastal Minesweeper (MSC)

#### Vietnam War/Operation MARKET TIME:

USS *Loyalty* (MSO-457) 6 April 1966

USS *Fortify* (MSO-446) 9 April 1966

USS *Energy* (MSO-436) 30 July 1966

USS *Gannet* (MSC-290) 2 February 1970

USS *Dynamic* (MSO-432) 29 August – 15 October 1970

USS *Implicit* (MSO-455) 29 August – 15 October 1970

USS *Endurance* (MSO-435) 22 November 1970

### Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)

#### Persian Gulf/Operation EARNEST WILL:

USS *Conquest* (MSO-488) Dates are likely the same as the other minesweepers

USS *Enhance* (MSO-437) 19 November 1987 – 1 April 1988 MCM operations

USS <i>Esteem</i> (MSO-438)	19 November 1987 – 1 April 1988	MCM operations
	14 April 1988 – 20 April 1988	MCM operations
USS <i>Fearless</i> (MSO-442)	19 November 1987 – 1 April 1988	MCM operations
	4 April 1988 – 20 April 1988	MCM operations
USS <i>Illusive</i> (MSO-448)	Dates are likely the same as the other minesweepers	
USS <i>Inflct</i> (MSO-456)	19 November 1987 – 1 April 1988	MCM operations
	14 April 1988 – 20 April 1988	MCM operations

**Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)/Mine Countermeasures Vessels (MCM)/  
Mine Countermeasures Helicopters (MH-53E Sea Dragon)**

Persian Gulf/Operation DESERT STORM:

Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fourteen HM-14	1991	MCM operations
MSM Group Staff	6 March – 10 September 1991	MCM operations
USS <i>Adroit</i> (MSO-509)	17 January – 28 February 1991	MCM operations
USS <i>Avenger</i> (MCM-1)	17 January – 28 February 1991	MCM operations

Persian Gulf/Mine Countermeasures Operations:

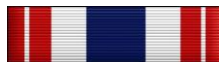
USS <i>Adroit</i> (MSO-509)	11 July – 10 September 1991	MCM operations
USS <i>Avenger</i> (MCM-1)	2 August 1990 – 15 August 1991	MCM operations
USS <i>Guardian</i> (MCM-5)	11 July – 20 September 1991	MCM operations

**Mine Countermeasures Vessels (MCM)/Coastal Mine Hunters (MHC)**

Persian Gulf/Operation IRAQI FREEDOM:

U.S. Fifth Fleet Strike Force		
USS <i>Ardent</i> (MCM-12)	19-28 March 2003	MCM operations
USS <i>Cardinal</i> (MHC-60)	19-28 March 2003	MCM operations
USS <i>Dextrous</i> (MCM-13)	19-28 March 2003	MCM operations
USS <i>Raven</i> (MHC-61)	19-28 March 2003	MCM operations

**Air Force Meritorious Unit Award  
(No associated medal)**



**Ocean Minesweepers (MSO)**

Cape Canaveral, Florida/Recovery of an Atlas Rocket:

Mine Flotilla Two	9 December 1971 – 22 February 1972
Mine Division 21	9-15 December 1971
USS <i>Vital</i> (MSO-474)	9-15 December 1971
USS <i>Vigor</i> (MSO-473)	27 December 1971 – 16 January 1972
Mine Division 22	14 January – 22 February 1972
USS <i>Fearless</i> (MSO-442)	28 January – 22 February 1972
USS <i>Fidelity</i> (MSO-443)	14-31 January 1972
Mine Division 24	16-23 December 1971
USS <i>Alacrity</i> (MSO-520)	16-23 December 1971



**Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation  
(No associated medal)**



**Minesweeping Helicopters (MH-53E Sea Dragon)**

Atlantic City, New Jersey/Operation TOXIC LOOK:

Helicopter Mine                      January 1992

Countermeasures

Squadron Fourteen HM-14

Note: Please **contact David** to identify omitted persons or to provide award citations.

The below citations are presented in largely chronological order from World War II through the Vietnam War, and *not* in alphabetic order by surnames of award recipients. Please assist in making this listing more comprehensive by providing names of omitted individuals and/or copies of missing award citations.

**MINE WARFARE HALL OF VALOR AWARD CITATIONS  
WORLD WAR II**

**PHILIPPINE ISLANDS OPERATION (INCLUDING GUAM AND OTHER  
CONCURRENT ASIATIC FLEET OPERATIONS)**

**USS *Pigeon* (AM-47): 7 December 1941 – 7 January 1942  
NAVY CROSS MEDALS – 3  
SILVER STAR MEDALS – 5**

Ralph W. Cook

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Gunner Ralph W. Cook, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while attached to the Minesweeper U.S.S. PIGEON (AM-47), during a Japanese aerial attack in the Philippine Islands, on 10 December 1941. Gunner Cook assisted in the work of towing a submarine to safety and in clearing the docks of the Cavite Navy Yard of naval vessels and yard craft. His gallant actions and selfless devotion to duty, without regard for his own safety, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 312 (March 1943)

Action Date: 10-Dec-41

Service: Navy

Rank: Gunner

Division: U.S.S. Pigeon (AM-47)

Frank Alfred Davis

Awarded posthumously for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Lieutenant Commander Frank Alfred Davis (NSN: 0-33836), United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as an Officer, and later as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. PIGEON (AM-47), in action at Cavite Naval Yard in the Philippine Islands, and subsequently in the defense of Manila Bay, during the period 7 December 1941 through 7 January 1942. Lieutenant Commander Davis participated in operations of strategic importance involving hazardous missions, while exposed to frequent horizontal and dive bombing attacks by Japanese air forces. Lieutenant Commander Davis' inspiring leadership and the valiant devotion to duty of his command contributed in large measure to the outstanding success of these vital missions and reflect great credit upon the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 316 (July 1943)

Action Date: December 7, 1941 - January 7, 1942

Service: Naval Reserve

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer  
Division: U.S.S. Pigeon (AM-47)

Richard Ellington Hawes

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Award of the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Richard Ellington Hawes (NSN: 0-43128), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. PIGEON (AM-47), in combat against enemy Japanese forces during the bombardment of Cavite Navy Yard, Philippine Islands, on 10 December 1941. Despite the heavy bombing, strafing, detonations of air flasks and warheads, and fires in the immediate vicinity, Lieutenant Commander Hawes, lacking the use of regular steering equipment then under overhaul at the Navy Yard, successfully towed the disabled submarine SEADRAGON clear of the dangerous area and by his skillful maneuvering saved both his ship and a submarine for further offensive war service. The conduct of Lieutenant Commander Hawes throughout this action reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 303 (June 1942) & 345 (December 1945)

Action Date: 10-Dec-41

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Pigeon (AM-47)

Lindell H. McCain

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Radioman Third Class Lindell H. McCain, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving on board the U.S.S. PIGEON (AM-47) during a Japanese aerial attack on the Navy Yard at Cavite, Philippine Islands, on 10 December 1941. Despite frequent explosions of air flasks and torpedo warheads, danger from burning docks, and in the face of continued enemy bombing attacks, Radioman Third Class McCain and two comrades courageously and ably assisted in the work of towing a United States submarine to safety and in clearing the docks of the Cavite Navy Yard of naval vessels and yard craft.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 309 (December 1942)

Action Date: 10-Dec-41

Service: Navy

Rank: Radioman Third Class

Division: U.S.S. Pigeon (AM-47)

George R. Mitchell

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Ensign George R. Mitchell (NSN: 0-97750), United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession while serving on board the Minesweeper U.S.S. PIGEON (AM-47), in combat with the enemy during the period from 7 December 1941 to 7 January 1942, in the Philippine Islands. While exposed to

frequent horizontal and dive bombing attacks by enemy Japanese air forces, Ensign Mitchell participated in operations of strategic importance involving hazardous missions such as to reflect great credit upon the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: December 7, 1941 - January 7, 1942

Service: Naval Reserve

Rank: Ensign

Division: U.S.S. Pigeon (AM-47)

Paul R. Pogreba

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Boatswain's Mate First Class Paul R. Pogreba, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving on board the U.S.S. PIGEON (AM-47) during a Japanese aerial attack on the Navy Yard at Cavite, Philippine Islands, on 10 December 1941. Despite frequent explosions of air flasks and torpedo warheads, danger from burning docks, and in the face of continued enemy bombing attacks, Boatswain's Mate First Class Pogreba and two comrades courageously and ably assisted in the work of towing a United States submarine to safety and in clearing the docks of the Cavite Navy Yard of naval vessels and yard craft.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 309 (December 1942)

Action Date: 10-Dec-41

Service: Navy

Rank: Boatswain's Mate First Class

Division: U.S.S. Pigeon (AM-47)

Floyd M. Symons

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Ensign Floyd M. Symons, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while attached to the Minesweeper U.S.S. PIGEON (AM-47), in assisting in the work of towing a submarine to safety and in clearing the docks of the Cavite Navy Yard of naval vessels and yard craft during a Japanese aerial attack on 10 December 1951. Ensign Symons' gallant actions and selfless devotion to duty, without regard for his own safety, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 312 (March 1943)

Action Date: 10-Dec-41

Service: Navy

Rank: Ensign

Division: U.S.S. Pigeon (AM-47)

Samuel H. Wood

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Chief Shipfitter Samuel H. Wood, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving on board the U.S.S. PIGEON (AM-47) during a Japanese aerial attack on the Navy Yard at Cavite, Philippine Islands, on 10 December 1941. Despite frequent explosions of air flasks and torpedo warheads, danger from burning docks, and in the face of continued enemy bombing attacks, Chief Shipfitter Wood and two comrades

courageously and ably assisted in the work of towing a United States submarine to safety and in clearing the docks of the Cavite Navy Yard of naval vessels and yard craft.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 309 (December 1942)

Action Date: 10-Dec-41

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Shipfitter

Division: U.S.S. Pigeon (AM-47)

**USS *Tanager* (AM-5): 7 December 1941 – 18 March 1942**

**NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Egbert Adolph Roth

Awarded posthumously for actions during the World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Lieutenant Commander Egbert Adolph Roth (NSN: 0-62523), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. TANAGER (AM-5), in action against the enemy during the period from 7 December 1941 to 18 March 1942. Although his command was straddled by enemy Japanese bombs during the air attack on the Navy Yard, Cavite, Philippine Islands, on 10 December 1941, and despite extensive splinter damage to his ship, Lieutenant Commander Roth displayed excellent seamanship and leadership in fighting and maneuvering his ship. His conduct on this occasion enabled him, later, to conduct further missions of strategic importance of a hazardous nature, despite frequent aggressive enemy horizontal and dive bombing attacks, bringing great credit to his command and the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commandant 16th Naval District, Desp 281200 NCR 7859 (April 29, 1942)

Action Date: December 7, 1941 - March 18, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Tanager (AM-5)

**USS *Perry* (DMS-17): 7 December 1941 – 28 April 1942**

**NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Earl W. Ferguson

Awarded posthumously for actions during the World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Ensign Earl W. Ferguson (NSN: 0-99185), United States Naval Reserve, for exceptional courage, presence of mind, and devotion to duty and disregard for his personal safety while serving on board the U.S.S. PERRY (DMS-17), in action against the enemy from 7 December 1941 to 7 March 1942 and from 19 to 28 April 1942, in the Philippine Islands. While exposed to frequent horizontal and dive bombing attacks by enemy Japanese air forces, Ensign Ferguson participated in operations of strategic importance involving hazardous missions such as to reflect great credit upon the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: December 7, 1941 - April 28, 1942

Service: Naval Reserve

Rank: Ensign

Division: U.S.S. Perry (DMS-17)

**USS *Finch* (AM-9): 7 December 1941 – 30 April 1942**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDALS – 2**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Thurlow Weed Davison

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Thurlow Weed Davison (NSN: 0-62688), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. FINCH (AM-9), during operations in the Philippine Islands during the period 7 December 1941 through 2 April 1942. While exposed to frequent horizontal and dive bombing attacks by enemy Japanese air forces, Lieutenant Commander Davison directed the anti-aircraft batteries of his ship and conducted operations of strategic importance involving hazardous such as to bring great credit to his command and the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 305 (August 1942)

Action Date: December 7, 1941 - April 2, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Finch (AM-9)

Glen Frederick Slipsager

Awarded posthumously for actions during the World War II

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Army Award) (Posthumously) to Pharmacist's Mate First Class Glen Frederick Slipsager (NSN: 3417988), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as a Medical Corpsman on the Minesweeper U.S.S. FINCH (AM-10), in the Philippine Islands. When a formation of enemy Japanese bombers launched a severe attack on Caballo Island, Manila Bay, on 10 April 1942, Pharmacist's mate First Class Slipsager, acting at the time as a representative of the U.S.S. Finch at a conference of medical officers at the Fort Hughes' sick bay, upon hearing the report that an Army observation post at the top of the island had been caved in, immediately ran to the scene of the disaster and commenced the task of rescue by digging with his steel helmet. A second stick of bombs fell nearby, blowing off the top of the covered observation post and throwing him many feet down the hill. Though pinned under a falling body, he released himself, hurried back and rescued two soldiers who were stunned, when the concussion of a third attack struck the whole party off their feet, rolling them down the steep hill. Pharmacist's Mate First Class Slipsager again got them on their way to the sick bay shelter while administering first aid, until he fainted from shock and overexertion. Pharmacist's Mate First Class Slipsager's gallant actions and selfless devotion to duty, without regard for his own safety, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 311 (February 1943)

Action Date: 10-Apr-42

Service: Navy

Rank: Pharmacist's Mate First Class

Division: U.S.S. Finch (AM-9)

Thurlow Weed Davison

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Captain Thurlow Weed Davison (NSN: 0-62688), United States Navy, for gallantry in action in the Philippine Islands, on 29 - 30 April 1942. Volunteering to command the guide launch, Captain Davison demonstrated exceptional courage and resourcefulness in directing the hazardous and difficult task of sweeping a contact minefield south of Corregidor. While the operation was under attack from a Japanese plane, he skillfully directed several passes of the launch through the area. Through his courageous leadership and unremitting devotion to duty, Captain Davison made it possible to accomplish the subsequent necessary movement of navy craft and army personnel. His actions were at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: April 29 - 30, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Captain

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Finch (AM-9)

**USS *Penguin* (AM-33): 8 December 1941**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**  
**PRISONER OF WAR MEDALS - 65**

James William Haviland, III

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Captain [then Lieutenant Commander] James William Haviland, III (NSN: 59306), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), when that vessel was attacked and sunk by enemy Japanese Aircraft off the Island of Guam, 8 December 1941. Aware of the possibility of sudden treacherous action on the part of aggressor nations seeking to dominate the Pacific Area, Captain Haviland elected to remain at sea and continue his patrol of the entrance to Apra Harbor, Guam, early in the morning of 8 December. Two hours later, a large number of Japanese planes swept in from the northward to strike devastating blows at the PENGUIN outside the harbor and at shore installations on Guam, Cool and courageous in the face of this wanton attack by an undeclared enemy, Captain Haviland controlled the limited firepower of the PENGUIN's gun with maximum skill and efficiency as his light and vulnerable craft pitched and vibrated under the shattering explosions of enemy bombs, and several of his officers and men fell wounded or killed under the deadly accuracy of Japanese machine-gun fire. Disregarding all personal danger in his concern for his ship and her company, he resisted the savage aerial onslaughts with every means at his disposal and refused to yield to the enemy's superior numbers and gunpower until, with the PENGUIN shuddering under a mortal blow, he ordered the dying ship abandoned. Although himself wounded during the bitter action, Captain Haviland continued in active command as the ship's company launched and boarded life rafts and, working tirelessly despite the difficulties and confusion, succeeded in returning his officers and crew, including all casualties, to shore. His dauntless initiative, indomitable fighting spirit and unwavering devotion to duty throughout reflect the highest credit upon Captain Haviland and the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: December 8, 1941

Service: Navy

Rank: Captain

Company: Commanding Officer  
Division: U.S.S. Penguin (AM-33)

The below USS *Penguin* officers and men were captured on Guam after the sinking of their ship on 8 December 1941, and were interned as Prisoners of War until the end of hostilities in August 1945.

General Orders: NARA Database: Records of World War II Prisoners of War, created, 1942 – 1947 [additional names of officers and crewmen referred by Roster of Guam Personnel at: [http://www.mansell.com/pow\\_resources/guam/guamroster.html](http://www.mansell.com/pow_resources/guam/guamroster.html)]

Action Date: December 8, 1941 - August 1945

Service: Navy

Division: Prisoner of War (Japan)

- Gunner's Mate Third Class David Martin Allen, United States Navy
- Machinist's Mate First Class Verne Nicholas Bairey, United States Navy
- Baker Second Class Arthur Wise Benson, United States Navy
- Quartermaster First Class Andrew James Carrillo, United States Navy
- Mess Attendant J. J. Cruz, United States Navy
- Watertender Second Class Harry Willard Davidson, United States Navy
- Ship's Cook Third Class John Robert Dean, United States Navy
- Radioman Second Class Bobbie Epperson, United States Navy
- Electrician's Mate First Class Ralph Henry Gwinnup, United States Navy
- Electrician's Mate Second Class Edward Everett Hale, United States Navy
- Machinist's Mate First Class Joseph Hanzsek, United States Navy
- Seaman Second Class Thomas Theron Haskins, United States Navy
- Lieutenant Commander James William Haviland, III, United States Navy
- Construction Mechanic First Class Cecil Edmond Hinton, United States Navy
- Watertender Second Class Edward Neal Howard, United States Navy
- Yeoman First Class Howard James, United States Navy
- Chief Quartermaster Olin Sumner Lake, United States Navy
- Fire Controlman Floyd Lumpkins, United States Navy
- Seaman First Class Walter Magelssen, United States Navy
- Chief Electrician's Mate John Graham McFarlane, United States Navy
- Fireman First Class Lester William McKenzie, United States Navy
- Seaman First Class Ernest Molnar, United States Navy
- Chief Boatswain's Mate Robert William O'Brien, United States Navy
- Machinist's Mate Third Class Robert Torell Olson, United States Navy
- Chief Watertender Rae Patterson, United States Navy
- Radioman Second Class Lorenzo Everett Rathbun, United States Navy
- Seaman First Class Earl Martin Ratzman, United States Navy
- Signalmen First Class Reginald Walter Reed, United States Navy
- Fireman First Class William James Reed, United States Navy
- Seaman First Class John Wilbur Sawyer, United States Navy
- Ensign Walter Senchuk, United States Naval Reserve
- Seaman First Class Edward Wayne Settles, United States Navy
- Pharmacist's Mate First Class Gilbert James Shaw, United States Navy



- Fireman First Class James Madison Smith, United States Navy
- Seaman First Class Jack Wadsworth Staff, United States Navy
- Seaman First Class Clifford D. Stansberry, United States Navy
- Mess Attendant First Class J. L. Taitano, United States Navy
- Machinist's Mate First Class Norman Sidney Tattrie, United States Navy
- Mess Attendant Third Class J. G. Tenorio, United States Navy
- Officer's Cook First Class C. Vergara, United States Navy
- Seaman First Class Melvin Cecil Wilkerson, United States Navy
- Electrician's Mate Third Class Rex Elwood Wilson, United States Navy
- Ensign Edwin Allen Wood, Supply Corps, United States Naval Reserve
- Fireman First Class Robert William Zimmer, United States Navy

The below USS *Penguin* crewmembers were executed by the Japanese or died in captivity:

- Storekeeper Third Class Robert Maclean Brown, United States Navy, was captured on Guam after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941. He died as a Prisoner of War on or about 14 February 1944.
- Signalman Third Class Robert Walter Ernst, United States Navy, was captured on Guam after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941. He was captured on the beach and executed by the Japanese on 10 December 1941 while in captivity as a Prisoner of War.
- Boatswain's Mate First Class Rollin George Fraser, United States Navy, was captured on Guam after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941. He was captured on the beach and executed by the Japanese on 10 December 1941 while in captivity as a Prisoner of War.
- Signalman Third Class Seba Guarland Hurd, United States Navy, was captured on Guam after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941. He was captured on the beach and executed by the Japanese on 10 December 1941 while in captivity as a Prisoner of War.
- Machinist's Mate First Class Bruce Clarence Johnston, United States Navy, was captured on Guam after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941. An evader, he was captured and executed by the Japanese on 22 October 1942.
- Chief Carpenter's Mate Michael L. Krump, United States Navy, was captured on Guam after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941. An evader, he was captured and executed by the Japanese on 11 September 1942.
- Storekeeper Third Class Robert Brown MacLean, United States Navy, was captured on Guam after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941. He died as a Prisoner of War on 14 February 1944.
- Boatswain's Mate First Class Frank James O'Neill, United States Navy, was captured on Guam after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941. He was captured on the beach and executed by the Japanese on 10 December 1941 while in captivity as a Prisoner of War.
- Coxswain Joseph Leo Pineault, United States Navy, was captured on Guam after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941. He was

captured on the beach and executed by the Japanese on 10 December 1941 while in captivity as a Prisoner of War.

- Gunner's Mate First Class John Schweighardt, United States Navy, was captured on Guam after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941. He was captured on the beach and executed by the Japanese on 10 December 1941 while in captivity as a Prisoner of War.
- Ensign Robert Gabriel White, United States Naval Reserve, was killed in action on 10 December 1941, after the sinking of his ship, the U.S.S. PENGUIN (AM-33), on 8 December 1941.

The below ten Navy men were members of the USS *Penguin* Fleet Reserve Unit captured by the Japanese as a result of the loss of their ship on 8 December 1941:

- Fire Controlman First Class J. Cepeda
- Officer's Cook First Class R. Chargualaf
- Signalman First Class J. C. Concepcion
- Coxswain E. Cruz
- Signalman First Class Jesus Lujan Flores
- Signalman First Class Joaquin Lago Flores
- Officer's Cook First Class Tomas Guzman
- Machinist's Mate Second Class Jose Matanane
- Machinist's Mate First Class J. A. Perez
- Signalman First Class V. A. Salas

**USS *Quail* (AM-15): 10 December 1941 – 6 May 1942**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDALS - 2**  
**SILVER STAR MEDALS - 4**

John Henry Morrill

Awarded posthumously for actions during the World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Lieutenant Commander John Henry Morrill, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. QUAIL (AM-15), in combat against enemy Japanese forces during the bombardment of Cavite Navy Yard, Philippine Islands, on 10 December 1941. Despite the fires and frequent explosion of air flasks and war heads, Lieutenant Commander Morrill while in command of a small auxiliary craft, displayed extraordinary courage and determination in proceeding into the danger zone and towing disabled surface craft alongside docks to a safe zone. This prompt and daring action undoubtedly saved the crews from serious danger and saved the vessels aided for further war service. The conduct of Lieutenant Commander Morrill throughout this action reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 304 (July 1942)

Action Date: December 10, 1941

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Quail (AM-15)

Nicholas George Cucinello

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Chief Watertender Nicholas George Cucinello, United States Navy, for gallantry in action against the enemy while serving on board the U.S.S. Quail (AM-15), after that vessel was ordered scuttled in the Philippine Islands on 6 May 1942. After it became apparent that the fall of Corregidor was imminent, Chief Watertender Cucinello volunteered with others to assist their commanding officer in performing this task, left the shelter of Fort Hughes and raced through exposed areas of the Fort Hughes dock while that place was under heavy artillery barrage. Upon their arrival at the dock they found their ship's small boat sunk and, accordingly, had to swim 200 yards to another boat anchored at the dock. While in the water Chief Watertender Cucinello and his comrades swam through Japanese artillery fire and numerous airplane strafing attacks, but reached the small boat nevertheless. He then proceeded with his comrades to the QUAIL, continuing to dodge artillery and airplane machine gun fire en route, until the minesweeper was reached and scuttled. By his great effort, Chief Watertender Cucinello materially assisted in accomplishing this difficult and dangerous task. His conduct throughout reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 306 (September 1942)

Action Date: 6-May-42

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Watertender

Division: U.S.S. Quail (AM-15)

Jack Forest Meeker, Jr.

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Watertender First Class Jack Forest Meeker, Jr., United States Navy, for gallantry in action against the enemy while serving on board the U.S.S. Quail (AM-15), after that vessel was ordered scuttled in the Philippine Islands on 6 May 1942. After it became apparent that the fall of Corregidor was imminent, Watertender First Class Meeker volunteered with others to assist their commanding officer in performing this task, left the shelter of Fort Hughes and raced through exposed areas of the Fort Hughes dock while that place was under heavy artillery barrage. Upon their arrival at the dock they found their ship's small boat sunk and, accordingly, had to swim 200 yards to another boat anchored at the dock. While in the water Watertender First Class Meeker and his comrades swam through Japanese artillery fire and numerous airplane strafing attacks, but reached the small boat nevertheless. He then proceeded with his comrades to the QUAIL, continuing to dodge artillery and airplane machine gun fire en route, until the minesweeper was reached and scuttled. By his great effort, Watertender First Class Meeker materially assisted in accomplishing this difficult and dangerous task. His conduct throughout reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 306 (September 1942)

Action Date: 6-May-42

Service: Navy

Rank: Watertender First Class

Division: U.S.S. Quail (AM-15)

James Howard Steele

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Chief Machinist's Mate James Howard Steele, United States Navy, for gallantry in action against the enemy while serving on board the U.S.S. Quail (AM-15), after that vessel was ordered scuttled in the Philippine Islands on 6 May 1942. After it became apparent that the fall of Corregidor was imminent, Chief Machinist's Mate Steele volunteered with others to assist their commanding officer in performing this task, left the shelter of Fort Hughes and raced through exposed areas of the Fort Hughes dock while that place was under heavy artillery barrage. Upon their arrival at the dock they found their ship's small boat sunk and, accordingly, had to swim 200 yards to another boat anchored at the dock. While in the water Chief Machinist's Mate Steele and his comrades swam through Japanese artillery fire and numerous airplane strafing attacks, but reached the small boat nevertheless. He then proceeded with his comrades to the QUAIL, continuing to dodge artillery and airplane machine gun fire en route, until the minesweeper was reached and scuttled. By his great effort, Chief Machinist's Mate Steele materially assisted in accomplishing this difficult and dangerous task. His conduct throughout reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 306 (September 1942)

Action Date: 6-May-42

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Machinist's Mate

Division: U.S.S. Quail (AM-15)

Donald C. Taylor

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Ensign [then Gunner] Donald C. Taylor, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in action against the enemy while serving as Gunner and Control Officer on board the Minesweeper U.S.S. QUAIL (AM-15), after that vessel was ordered scuttled in the Philippine Islands on 6 May 1942. After it became apparent that the fall of Corregidor was imminent, Ensign Taylor volunteered with others to assist their commanding officer in performing this task, left the shelter of Fort Hughes and raced through exposed areas of the Fort Hughes dock while that place was under heavy artillery barrage. Upon their arrival at the dock they found their ship's small boat sunk and, accordingly, had to swim 200 yards to another boat anchored at the dock. While in the water Ensign Taylor and his men swam through Japanese artillery fire and numerous airplane strafing attacks, but reached the small boat nevertheless. He then assumed charge as boat officer and proceeded with his party to the QUAIL, continuing to dodge artillery and airplane machine gun fire en route, until the minesweeper was reached and scuttled. By his great effort, Ensign Taylor materially assisted in accomplishing this difficult and dangerous task. His conduct throughout reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 306 (September 1942)

Action Date: 6-May-42

Service: Navy

Rank: Ensign

Company: Gunner and Control Officer

Division: U.S.S. Quail (AM-15)

Charles Ernest Weinmann

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Chief Machinist's Mate Charles Ernest Weinmann, United States Navy, for gallantry in action against the enemy while serving on board the U.S.S. Quail (AM-15), after that vessel was ordered scuttled in the Philippine Islands on 6 May 1942. After it became apparent that the fall of Corregidor was imminent, Chief Machinist's Mate Weinmann volunteered with others to assist their commanding officer in performing this task, left the shelter of Fort Hughes and raced through exposed areas of the Fort Hughes dock while that place was under heavy artillery barrage. Upon their arrival at the dock they found their ship's small boat sunk and, accordingly, had to swim 200 yards to another boat anchored at the dock. While in the water Chief Machinist's Mate Weinmann and his comrades swam through Japanese artillery fire and numerous airplane strafing attacks, but reached the small boat nevertheless. He then proceeded with his comrades to the QUAIL, continuing to dodge artillery and airplane machine gun fire en route, until the minesweeper was reached and scuttled. By his great effort, Chief Machinist's Mate Weinmann materially assisted in accomplishing this difficult and dangerous task. His conduct throughout reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 306 (September 1942)

Action Date: 6-May-42

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Machinist's Mate

Division: U.S.S. Quail (AM-15)

**USS *Whippoorwill* (AM-35): 10 December 1941  
NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Charles Arthur Ferriter

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Charles Arthur Ferriter, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. WHIPPOORWILL (AM-35), in combat against enemy Japanese forces during the bombardment of Cavite Navy Yard, Philippine Islands, on 10 December 1941. Despite the fires and frequent explosion of air flasks and war heads, Lieutenant Commander Ferriter, while in command of a small auxiliary craft, displayed extraordinary courage and determination in proceeding into the danger zone and towing disabled surface craft alongside docks to a safe zone. This prompt and daring action undoubtedly saved the crews from serious danger and saved the vessels aided for further war service. The conduct of Lieutenant Commander Ferriter throughout this action reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 304 (July 1942)

Action Date: December 10, 1941

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Whippoorwill (AM-35)

## DUTCH EAST INDIES

### USS *Heron* (AM-10): 31 December 1941 NAVY CROSS MEDALS – 3 BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Robert Lee Brock

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Machinist's Mate Second Class Robert Lee Brock (NSN: 3371073), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty while serving as a Machine Gunner on board the Minesweeper U.S.S. HERON (AM-10), in action against the enemy during operations in Dutch East Indies on 31 December 1941 when his ship was attacked by 15 hostile planes of different types. With extreme disregard of personal safety, Machinist's Mate Second Class Brock returned to his action station while bombs were falling near the ship and after the force of a bomb explosion had thrown him from the after machine gun platform to the main deck below. During protracted air attacks delivered against the U.S.S. HERON on 31 December 1941 in the Dutch East Indies, the ship being attacked by an overwhelming number of enemy aircraft of various types using bombs and torpedoes, Machinist's Mate Second Class Brock discharged his duties as After .50 Caliber Machine Gun Captain in a most efficient and commendable manner. Such action contributed not only to the survival of the ship but also to the fact that effective losses were sustained by the enemy aircraft. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy of the United States.

General Orders: Commander in Chief, Asiatic Fleet: (January 23, 1942)

Action Date: 31-Dec-41

Service: Navy

Rank: Machinist's Mate Second Class

Regiment: Patrol Wing 10

Division: U.S.S. Heron (AM-10)

Franklin Duerr Buckley

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Lieutenant Franklin Duerr Buckley, United States Navy, for heroic service as Executive Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. HERON (AM-10), during operations in Dutch East Indies on 31 December 1941. When the U.S.S. HERON was attacked by hostile aircraft, Commander Buckley directed accurate and effective anti-aircraft fire to destroy one and damage at least one more of the hostile bomber planes, thereby disrupting the Japanese attack. By his skill, leadership and devotion to duty in the face of overwhelming odds, he upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. (Commander Buckley is authorized to wear the Combat "V".)

General Orders: Board Serial 1429 (February 14, 1947)

Action Date: December 31, 1941

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Executive Officer

Division: U.S.S. Heron (AM-10)

William Harold Johnson

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Award of the Navy Cross to Chief Boatswain William Harold Johnson (NSN: 100497), United States Navy, for exceptional courage, presence of mind, and devotion to duty and extreme disregard for his personal safety while serving on board the Minesweeper U.S.S. HERON (AM-10), during operations in Dutch East Indies on 31 December 1941, when his ship was attacked by 15 hostile planes of different types. During protracted air attacks delivered against the U.S.S. HERON on 31 December 1941, the ship being attacked by an overwhelming number of enemy aircraft of various types using bombs and torpedoes, he discharged his duties as After Machine Gun Battery Officer in a most efficient and commendable manner. He manned his machine gun after ordering the personnel of his battery to take cover while bombs were falling, and carried on in his action duties while seriously wounded. Such action contributed not only to the survival of the ship but also to the fact that effective losses were sustained by the enemy aircraft. Chief Boatswain's Johnson's conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy of the United States.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 304 (July 1942)

Action Date: December 31, 1941

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Boatswain

Division: U.S.S. Heron (AM-10)

William Leverette Kabler

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant William Leverette Kabler, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. HERON (AM-10), during operations in Dutch East Indies on 31 December 1941. When the U.S. warship he commanded was attacked by 15 hostile planes of various types, Lieutenant Kabler fought his ship with such skill that the crew was able to destroy one plane, damage others and frustrate the attack. The conduct of Lieutenant Kabler throughout this action reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 328 (July 1944)

Action Date: December 31, 1941

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Heron (AM-10)

## **ANTI-SUBMARINE PATROL IN THE PACIFIC**

**USS *Long* (DD-209): 28 January 1942**  
**(Reclassified DMS-12 on 19 November 1940)**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

William Scheutze Veeder

Awarded for actions during World War II  
The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to William Scheutze Veeder, Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Destroyer U.S.S. LONG (DD-209), in sinking an enemy submarine on 28 January 1942. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy of the United States.  
Born: January 19, 1903 at Washington, D.C.  
Home Town: Nokesville, Virginia

## **FALL OF THE PHILIPPINES**

### **USS *Bittern* (AM-36): 6 May 1942 – 5 February 1945 PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL**

Bob Stuart Seashols  
Awarded for actions during World War II  
Ship's Cook Second Class Bob Stuart Seashols (NSN: 2832370), United States Navy, a former crewman of the U.S.S. BITTERN (AM-36), was captured by the Japanese after the fall of Corregidor, Philippine Islands, on 6 May 1942, and was held as a Prisoner of War until his recovery by U.S. Forces which liberated the Bilibid Prison Camp on 5 February 1945.  
General Orders: NARA Database: Records of World War II Prisoners of War, created, 1942 - 1947  
Action Date: May 6, 1942 - February 5, 1945  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Ship's Cook Second Class  
Division: Prisoner of War (Philippine Islands)

### **USS *Finch* (AM-9): 6 May 1942 – 5 February 1945 PRISONER OF WAR MEDAL**

Lee George Mills  
Awarded for actions during World War II  
Warrant Officer Lee George Mills (NSN: 84472), United States Navy, a former crewman of the U.S.S. FINCH (AM-9), was captured by the Japanese after the fall of Corregidor, Philippine Islands, on 6 May 1942, and was held as a Prisoner of War until his recovery by U.S. Forces which liberated the Bilibid Prison Camp on 5 February 1945.  
General Orders: NARA Database: Records of World War II Prisoners of War, created, 1942 - 1947  
Action Date: May 6, 1942 - February 5, 1945  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Yeoman Seaman Apprentice  
Division: Prisoner of War (Philippine Islands)

### **USS *Quail* (AM-15): 6 May 1942 – 5 February 1945 PRISONER OF WAR MEDALS - 2**

Roy Leon Morrisette  
Awarded for actions during World War II  
Coxswain Roy Leon Morrisette (NSN: 2011634), United States Navy, a crewman of the U.S.S. QUAIL (AM-15), was captured by the Japanese after the fall of Corregidor, Philippine



Islands, on 6 May 1942, and was held as a Prisoner of War until his recovery by U.S. Forces which liberated the Bilibid Prison Camp on 5 February 1945.

General Orders: NARA Database: Records of World War II Prisoners of War, created, 1942 - 1947

Action Date: May 6, 1942 - February 5, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Coxswain

Division: Prisoner of War (Philippine Islands)

Lawrence Byron Stephens

Awarded for actions during World War II

Chief Commissary Steward Lawrence Byron Stephens (NSN: 3681107), United States Navy, a crewman of the U.S.S. QUAIL (AM-15), was captured by the Japanese after the fall of Corregidor, Philippine Islands, on 6 May 1942, and was held as a Prisoner of War until his recovery by U.S. Forces which liberated the Bilibid Prison Camp on 5 February 1945.

General Orders: NARA Database: Records of World War II Prisoners of War, created, 1942 - 1947

Action Date: May 6, 1942 - February 5, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Commissary Steward

Division: Prisoner of War (Philippine Islands)

## **BATTLE OF MIDWAY**

### **USS *Vireo* (AM-52): 5-7 June 1942 NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

James Claude Legg

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander [then Lieutenant] James Claude Legg, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. VIREO (AM-52), while that vessel was engaged in salvaging the U.S.S. YORKTOWN (CV-5), following an attack by enemy Japanese submarines, from 5 to 7 June 1942. Immediately proceeding through the hazardous submarine-infested waters, Lieutenant Commander Legg sent a working party on board the crippled YORKTOWN to connect a tow wire and, working untiringly for a twenty-four hour period in a desperate attempt to tow it clear of the perilous area, expeditiously ordered the tow wire out when a vessel to the starboard side of the YORKTOWN was hit by an enemy torpedo and sunk. Then, going to the aid of the survivors from the stricken ship, he effected their rescue and subsequently brought the VIREO alongside the heavily listing YORKTOWN to evacuate its Commanding Officer and the personnel on board. By his initiative, courage and devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger, Lieutenant Legg upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Authority: Board Serial 4101 (November 21, 1946)

Action Date: June 5 - 7, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Vireo (AM-53)

**GUADALCANAL-TULAGI LANDINGS (AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS IN  
THE SOLOMON ISLANDS)**

**Mine Division: 7 August 1942  
SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Stanley Leith

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander Stanley Leith (NSN: 0-58093), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of Mine Division and as Second-in-Command of the minesweeping units attached to the Amphibious Force of the South Pacific Force during the original occupation, reinforcement and supply of Guadalcanal Island on 7 August 1942. In the face of persistent bombardment by enemy shore batteries, Lieutenant Commander Leith, in the initial attack on the island, skillfully conducted a group of ships which contributed vital support to the landing of troops by their effective gunfire. During the same operations Lieutenant Commander Leith further proved his brilliant professional ability while in charge of a minesweeping unit performing essential minesweeping duties under enemy fire. He later distinguished himself by the highly efficient manner in which he participated in numerous escort missions into the Guadalcanal-Tulagi Area, despite hostile air attacks upon his flagship. Lieutenant Commander Leith's excellent judgment and unswerving devotion to duty were of great material assistance to the success of our forces.

Action Date: August 7, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: Mine Division

**Minesweeping Group: 7 August, and 7-12 September 1942  
SILVER STAR MEDAL**

William Handy Hartt, Jr.

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Captain William Handy Hartt, Jr. (NSN: 0-17020), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as Commander of the Minesweeping Group at the time of the original landing of our forces in the Solomon Islands, on 7 August 1942, and subsequently as Commander Screening Force from 7 to 12 September 1942. In addition to commanding a force of screening and minesweeping vessels in the initial attack against the islands, Captain Hartt frequently re-entered the Guadalcanal-Tulagi Area in the face of persistent Japanese aerial raids in order to escort and protect vessels bearing reinforcements and supplies to Marine forces established on the island shore. His judicious execution of an extremely responsible task contributed to the successful accomplishment of the mission of his force and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 313 (April 1943)

Action Date: August 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Captain  
Company: Commanding Officer  
Division: Minesweeping Group

**USS *Southard* (DD-207): 7 August, and 7-15 September 1942  
(Reclassified DMS-10 on 19 November 1940)**

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Joe Brice Cochran

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Commander Joe Brice Cochran (NSN: 0-60224), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the Destroyer U.S.S. SOUTHARD (DD-207), during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands on 7 August and 7 to 15 September 1942. Participating in the initial attack as a screening and minesweeping vessel, the SOUTHARD, under Lieutenant Commander Cochran's courageous and skillful leadership, frequently re-entered the Guadalcanal-Tulagi Area, despite persistent opposition by Japanese aircraft, in order to escort and protect vessels carrying reinforcements and supplies to the United States Marine forces established on the island shore. Lieutenant Commander Cochran's gallant fortitude and conscientious devotion to duty contributed materially to the success of a vastly important mission and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: August 7 & September 7 - 15, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Southard (DD-207)

**USS *Hopkins* (DD-249): 7 August, and 7-15 September 1942  
(Reclassified DMS-13 on 19 November 1940)**

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Benjamin Coe

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Commander Benjamin Coe, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the Destroyer U.S.S. HOPKINS (DD-249), during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands on 7 August and from 7 to 15 September 1942. Participating in the initial attack as a screening and minesweeping vessel, the HOPKINS, under Lieutenant Commander Coe's courageous and skillful leadership, frequently re-entered the Guadalcanal-Tulagi Area, despite persistent opposition by Japanese aircraft, in order to escort and protect vessels carrying reinforcements and supplies to the United States Marine forces established on the island shore. Lieutenant Commander Coe's gallant fortitude and conscientious devotion to duty contributed materially to the success of a vastly important mission and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: August 7 & September 7 - 15, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Hopkins (DD-249)

**USS *Trever* (DD-339): 7 August – 25 October 1942**  
**(Reclassified DMS-16 on 19 November 1940)**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Dwight Merle Agnew

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Commander Dwight Merle Agnew (NSN: 0-60295), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Destroyer U.S.S. TREVER (DD-339), an escort ship, during operations in the Solomon Islands area. While engaged in these operations, Commander Agnew's ship was subjected to repeated air attacks. On 7, 8 and 9 August 1942, Commander Agnew's ship participated in the initial attack on Guadalcanal as a screening vessel for the transports and, while under fire, as a fire support and minesweeping vessel. With other vessels, his ship on numerous occasions acted as a screening and minesweeping vessel during the landing of supplies and reinforcements. From 23 to 25 October 1942, Commander Agnew, as Commander of a Task Unit again entered Solomon Island waters, carrying vitally needed material which was successfully unloaded at Tulagi on 25 October. While retiring his ships were attacked by a force of three Japanese destroyers. During the ensuing battle, he fought his ships with such brilliant success, that no considerable damage or loss of personnel resulted, while his vessels inflicted several hits on one enemy destroyer, setting it on fire. His skillful and seamanlike handling of his ships, and his determination and courage when opposed by a superior force, permitted the safe withdrawal of the ships under his command, after completion of their mission. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander Southern Pacific Area and Forces: Serial 482

Action Date: August 7 - October 25, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Trever (DD-339)

**USS *Zane* (DMS-14): 7-9 August 1942**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Peyton Louis Wirtz

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Peyton Louis Wirtz, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. ZANE (DMS-14), during operations in the Solomon Islands during the period 7 to 9 August 1942. While his ship was returning from delivering torpedoes and aviation gasoline to Tulagi, she was attacked by three Japanese destroyers. Lieutenant Commander Wirtz without hesitation engaged the enemy and inflicted considerable damage on the superior force before withdrawing to continue his voyage. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy of the United States.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 320 (November 1943)

Action Date: August 7 - 9, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer  
Division: U.S.S. Zane (DMS-14)

**USS *Gamble* (DM-15): 29 August 1942**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Stephen Noel Tackney

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Stephen Noel Tackney (NSN: 0-62121), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Destroyer-Mine Layer U.S.S. GAMBLE (DM-15), during attacks on an enemy Japanese submarine in the Solomon Islands Area on 29 August 1942. While escorting ships supplying our newly-seized bases, Lieutenant Commander Tackney skillfully sighted and located by sound-search an enemy submarine lurking in the vicinity. For a period of four hours he made persistent and determined attacks against the Japanese craft. Although warned of an imminent hostile air assault, Lieutenant Commander Tackney and the men under his command dauntlessly continued their action until oil and wreckage on the surface mutely convinced them of the submarine's destruction. Lieutenant Commander Tackney's leadership, skill, and outstanding devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself, his men, and the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander Amphibious Forces South Pacific: Serial 0122 (October 6, 1942)

Action Date: 29-Aug-42

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Gamble (DM-15)

**USS *Southard* (DD-207): 10 November 1942**  
**(Reclassified DMS-10 on 19 November 1940)**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

John Gardner Tennent, III

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander John Gardner Tennent, III (NSN: 0-71649), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Destroyer-Minesweeper U.S.S. SOUTHARD (DD-207), during an engagement with an enemy submarine near San Cristobal Island, Solomon Islands, on 10 November 1942. When sight contact was established with a hostile submarine at a distance of three thousand yards, Lieutenant Commander Tennent immediately engaged the enemy in fierce combat which lasted nearly eight hours. Twice the submarine attacked with torpedoes, but Lieutenant Commander Tennent, displaying expert seamanship and keen judgment, was successful in avoiding them. Directing the maneuvers of his vessel with outstanding professional ability during the entire engagement, he subsequently outwitted and destroyed his desperate and determined opponent, thereby enabling his ship to continue its performance of vital minesweeping duties.

General Orders: Commander South Pacific Force & Area: Serial 822 (March 14, 1943)

Action Date: 10-Nov-42

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander  
Company: Commanding Officer  
Division: U.S.S. Southard (DD-207)

**USS *Bobolink* (AM-20): 28 November 1942**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

James Louis Foley

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant James Louis Foley (NSN: 0-62592), United States Navy, for heroism as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. BOBOLINK (AM-20) when, at about six a.m. on 28 November 1942, the U.S.S. ALCHIBA was torpedoed by an enemy submarine off Guadalcanal Island. As a result of this attack, the ALCHIBA was set afire forward and the ammunition and petroleum products in her forward holds burned furiously. In spite of the fires and the explosions of ammunition within the burning ship, he promptly laid the BOBOLINK alongside the ALCHIBA and kept her in position to assist in the control of fires. He remained in that dangerous position until ordered by the Commanding Officer of the ALCHIBA to get clear when it appeared that the fires were out of control, but returned shortly afterward to give further assistance. By his skillful seamanship, determination, and outstanding courage he gave valuable assistance which contributed to the saving of the ALCHIBA and much of its cargo. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander South Pacific Force and Area: Serial 265 (January 21, 1943)

Action Date: November 28, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Bobolink (AM-20)

**USS *Breese* (DM-18): 29 June 1943**  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Alexander Bacon Coxe, Jr.

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Commander Alexander Bacon Coxe, Jr. (NSN: 0-71493), United States Navy, for meritorious service to the Government of the United States as Commanding Officer of a Destroyer-Minelayer operating as a unit of a Task Group during minelaying operations and bombardment of Japanese shore positions on Kolombangara, Shortland and Bougainville, British Solomon Islands, on the night of 29 June 1943.

Operating in poorly charted waters under cover of inclement weather, Lieutenant Commander Coxe skillfully executed his assigned missions and brought his ship through without damage. By his courage and able seamanship, he contributed materially to the successful mining of waters used extensively by enemy vessels. His conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: June 29, 1943

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S. Destroyer

## **SICILIAN OCCUPATION**

### **Minesweeper Group: 9-10 July 1943 NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

William Leroy Messmer

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Commander William Leroy Messmer, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commander of a Minesweeper Group of thirteen vessels in action against enemy forces off Porto Empedocle, Sicily, 9 - 10 July 1943. Assigned the extremely hazardous mission of clearing a channel through an active hostile minefield, Commander Messmer directed the operations of his command with expert tactical ability and brilliant initiative, aggressively returning the continuous fire of enemy shore batteries without retarding the progress of his forces. When another ship of the formation was mined, he skillfully supervised difficult rescue activities and the subsequent towing of the severely damaged vessel into port. By his superior technical knowledge he was largely responsible for successfully opening an unloading harbor vital to the support of our assault troops. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy of the United States.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 325 (April 1944)

Action Date: July 9 - 10, 1943

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commander

Division: Minesweeper Group

### **USS *Sentinel* (AM-113): 10 July 1943 NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

George Lincoln Phillips

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander George Lincoln Phillips, United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. SENTINEL (AM-113), in action against enemy forces during the assault on the Island of Sicily on 10 July 1943. Although his ship was severely damaged by one hostile dive-bombing strike, Lieutenant Commander Phillips gallantly and aggressively directed the performance of the vessel throughout four ensuing raids, driving off two attacks and scoring hits on two of the enemy bombers before being forced to abandon ship. By his expert seamanship and brilliant initiative he was largely responsible for the success of subsequent difficult rescue activities, carrying out these hazardous operations with a minimum loss of life. The conduct of Lieutenant Commander Phillips throughout this action reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 329 (August 1944)

Action Date: July 10, 1943

Service: Naval Reserve

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer  
Division: U.S.S. Sentinel (AM-113)

## OFF THE GULF OF SALERNO, ITALY

### USS *Skill* (AM-115): 25 September 1943 SILVER STAR MEDALS – 3

Seaman Henry R. Beausoleil

Awarded for actions during World War II

After being catapulted 100 yards ahead the USS SKILL by the force of a torpedo explosion cutting the ship in two while he was standing mine watch in the bow, Beausoleil swam back, climbed aboard the burning after section and passed life jackets to men in the water. He was awarded the Silver Star medal for his heroic actions incident to the loss of his ship during the Salerno campaign.

Source: Arnold Lott, *Most Dangerous Sea*, p. 124

(Need Citation)

Electrician's Mate Second Edgar O. Lesperance

Awarded for actions during World War II

Lesperance received the Silver Star Medal for heroic actions on 24 September 1943 when, while serving in the engine room of the USS SKILL, he risked his life not once, but often. The ship was cut in two sections by a torpedo; Lesperance could have easily escaped but instead he stopped to carry up the ladder a wounded comrade who was unconscious. Then he went back down and rescued a man who had lost an arm and a leg. Then he hunted up a life preserver and lowered the sufferer into the water to a raft. He returned a third time and gave such great aid in rescue work that he contributed materially to the saving of many lives.

Source: Newspaper article that quotes portions of the award citation (newspaper unknown)

titled Hero from USS Skill.

(Need Citation)

Carpenter's Mate First Class Everett Burgess Reed, United States Naval Reserve

Awarded for actions during World War II

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving aboard the U.S.S. SKILL during the torpedoing and sinking of that vessel by an enemy submarine off the Gulf of Salerno, Italy, September 24, 1943. When his ship was torpedoed and cut in two sections by the intensity of the explosion, REED labored tirelessly to assist in the rescue of numerous severely wounded crewmen who were trapped by fire in various compartments and engineroom spaces. Abandoning the after section only a few moments before it capsized and sank, he then risked his life to swim to the assistance of a drowning man and succeeded in bringing him to safety through a sea of burning oil. REED's unselfish efforts on behalf of his shipmates and his great personal valor in the face of grave peril contributed to the probable saving of many lives and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

James Forrestal

Secretary of the Navy



**WEST COAST OF ITALY OPERATIONS:  
ANZIO-NETTUNO ADVANCED LANDING**

**Minesweeper Group: 22 January 1944  
NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Alfred Humphreys Richards

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Commander Alfred Humphreys Richards, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commander of a Minesweeper Group during the amphibious assault at Anzio, Italy, on 22 January 1944. Although in ill health from his strenuous duties, Commander Richards skillfully trained and supervised the activities of personnel and maintained the equipment of twenty-three minesweepers and escorts during landing operations in this vital area. Hampered by darkness and intermittent gunfire attacks from hostile shore batteries, he fearlessly led his group into heavily mined enemy waters and, by expert control and navigation, quickly cleared approach channels for transportation and gunfire support ships. Commander Richards was an inspiration to the officers and men of the minesweeping group and contributed materially to the success of the landings at Anzio. His throughout this action reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 326 (May 1944)

Action Date: January 22, 1944

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commander

Division: Minesweeper Group

**INVASION OF NORMANDY**

**Naval Combat Demolition Group 125.2.3: 6 June 1944  
NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Herbert Augustus Peterson

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Herbert Augustus Peterson (NSN: 0-63016), United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer, Naval Combat Demolition Group 125.2.3 during the amphibious assault on the Normandy Coast of France on 6 June 1944. Lieutenant Commander Peterson was in command of eleven United States Navy Combat Demolitions Units, which landed on the beaches at 0630 hours, four hundred yards in the rear of the initial assault wave of infantry. His command was charged with the mission of clearing the underwater mines and obstacles from the beach assigned, which was two thousand yards long and four hundred yards wide at low tide, backed by a twelve-foot concrete wall surmounted by fifteen to twenty-five foot sand dunes. The beach was littered with steel, concrete, barbed wire and wooden obstacles interspersed with mines. Lieutenant Commander Peterson landed with the units and personally directed their work. Not only did the units perform their work rapidly and efficiently under his example and leadership, but the mission was accomplished with a

minimum of casualties to themselves and to other personnel nearby. The personal example, high courage and effective leadership of Lieutenant Commander Peterson on this occasion were a most material contribution to the success of the operation and reflect great credit upon the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 12th Fleet: Serial 2858 (March 8, 1945)

Action Date: 6-Jun-44

Service: Naval Reserve

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commander

Division: Naval Combat Demolition Group 125.2.3

**Commanding Officers of the six YMSs that swept  
Assault lanes off Utah Beach: 6 June 1944  
BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Lt. (j.g.) William E. Beckham, Jr.  
Commanding Officer, USS *YMS-381*

Lieutenant Lewis Calvin Bryan, United States Naval Reserve

CITATION:

For meritorious achievement as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. YMS 377 in action against enemy forces during the invasion of Northern France on June 6, 1944. Beginning before H-hour, and sweeping a long channel close inshore under enemy gunfire, Lieutenant (then Lieutenant, Junior Grade) Bryan skillfully maneuvered his ship and succeeded in clearing a heavily mined area. Lieutenant Bryan's determined courage, expert shiphanding and firm devotion to duty contributed materially to the success of the Normandy invasion and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Lieutenant Bryan is authorized to wear the Combat "V."

For the President,  
Secretary of the Navy, ACTING

Lt. (j.g.) John S. Buckley  
Commanding Officer, USS *YMS-356*

Lt. Ralph P. Fiebach, Jr.  
Commanding Officer, USS *YMS-305*

Lt. (j.g.) George D. Harrelson  
Commanding Officer, USS *YMS-380*

Lt. Henry J. White  
Commanding Officer, USS *YMS-406*

**INVASION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE**

**USS *YMS-350*: 2 July 1944  
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDALS - 2**

Ronald M. Alexander

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Yeoman First Class Ronald M. Alexander, United States Navy, for heroism while serving in a United States Minesweeper when that vessel was sunk during operations off the coast of France on 2 July 1944. Yeoman First Class Alexander helped launch a rubber life raft and paddled it through debris strewn water where a puncture would have sunk the raft, pulled five badly wounded shipmates, who were dazed and could not swim because of their injuries, from the water and thus saved them from drowning. He later directed a British motor launch and another craft in such a manner as to effect a speedy rescue. The courage and decisive action displayed by Yeoman First Class Alexander on this occasion were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: July 2, 1944

Service: Navy

Rank: Yeoman First Class

Mead Brokaw Kibbey

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL to LIEUTENANT MEAD BROKAW KIBBEY UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For heroic conduct in effecting the rescue of two men serving with him on board the USS YMS 350, when that vessel was sunk off the Coast of France, on July 2, 1944. After swimming clear of the sinking ship, Lieutenant Kibbey unhesitatingly returned to the dangerous area to save a man who had sustained a severe back injury and was unable to move. Risking his life in a second daring attempt, he again returned to effect the rescue of a drowning fellow officer. By his cool courage, outstanding fortitude and grave concern for others, Lieutenant Kibbey saved the lives of two men who otherwise might have perished, and his selfless efforts throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

James Forrestal

Secretary of the Navy

#### **USS ~~YMS-24~~ 16 August 1944**

#### **NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

John Richard Cox, Jr. [A Hollywood movie star, he used the stage name John Howard before and after the war]

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant, Junior Grade John Richard Cox, Jr., United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Executive Officer of the U.S.S. YMS-24, during minesweeping operations in support of the invasion of Southern France on 16 August 1944. Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Cox took charge when his commanding officer became a casualty and labored to save his ship after her bow had been blown off by a mine. Failing in this, he directed the removal of the wounded and risked his life by entering every compartment in search of missing or trapped men. When another mine exploded under the stern of one of the rescue vessels alongside, he jumped into the water between the two foundering craft and rescued a critically injured man who was in danger of

drowning. The conduct of Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Cox throughout this action reflects great credit upon himself, and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 334 (January 1945)

Action Date: 16-Aug-44

Service: Naval Reserve

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade

Company: Executive Officer

Division: U.S.S. YMS-24

## **CAPTURE AND OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN PALAU ISLANDS**

### **Minesweeper: 12-14 September 1944 SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Asa Alan Clark, III

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Asa Alan Clark, III (NSN: 0-100366), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action as Commanding Officer of a Minesweeper from 12 to 14 September 1944, during the operation against the enemy in the Palau Islands. In the face of fire from enemy shore batteries, the ship under Lieutenant Clark's command was the first to enter the mine fields; and thereafter led the remaining ships of the minesweeping Squadron through the heavily mined and unfamiliar waters of the Peleliu-Angaur and Kossol Passage areas until the minesweeping was completed. His ship swept a total of sixty-three mines. The mission, expertly and expeditiously performed, contributed materially to the success of the continuing offensive against the enemy by providing a safe anchorage for our ships.

Lieutenant Clark's courageous conduct and expert seamanship throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: September 12 - 14, 1944

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

### **USS YMS-302: 1 October 1944 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL – 3**

Seaman First Class Robert Briggs

Awarded for actions during World War II

Seaman First Class Robert Briggs received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroic actions on 1 October 1944 at Ulithi Lagoon in saving the life of a crewmember of the USS YMS-385, which had just struck a moored mine and been blown in half with only the stern section of the minesweeper still afloat. The drowning victim was injured, unconscious, and tangled up in a minesweep cable in the middle of an unswept minefield. Briggs and his two below listed shipmates volunteered to enter the dangerous waters, and succeeded in freeing the man and in swimming/towing him to the USS YMS-302.

Source: *The Silent Defenders*, Naval Minewarfare Association, January-March 1996 and Winter 1997 issues of the magazine.

(Need Citation)

Coxswain Raymond J. Ludack

Awarded for actions during World War II  
(Need Citation)

Signalman First Class Anthony M. Schovel  
Awarded for actions during World War II  
(Need Citation)

## LINGAYEN GULF LANDING

### Task Group Seventy-Seven Point Six: 3-9 January 1945 NAVY CROSS MEDAL BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Wayne Rowe Loud

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Captain [then Commander] Wayne Rowe Loud (NSN: 0-61487), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commander, Task Group SEVENTY SEVEN POINT SIX (TG-77.6), Minesweeping and Hydrographic Units, during operations against enemy Japanese forces at Lingayen Gulf, Philippine Islands, from 3 to 9 January 1945. With his force suffering substantial losses from hostile suicide attacks carried out on an unprecedented scale, Captain Loud aggressively maneuvered the ships of his command in the successful fulfillment of their mission. By his personal example of coolness and fortitude after his flagship had been damaged during a particularly heavy attack, he inspired those under his leadership to greater endeavor and contributed materially to the success of the Lingayen operation. Displaying gallant determination and devotion to duty throughout, Captain Loud upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 500 (October 5, 1945)

Action Date: January 3 - 9, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Captain

Company: Commander

Division: Task Group 77.6

Lieutenant Onofrio F. Salvia, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during World War II

Awarded the Bronze Star Medal, while in command of the Destroyer Minesweeper USS *HOWARD* (DMS-7), for heroic actions the Lingayen Gulf operation in January 1945.

(Need Citation)

## ASSAULT AND OCCUPATION OF OKINAWA

### USS *Shannon* (DD-737): 23 March – 21 June 1945 (Reclassified DM-25 on 19 July 1944) SILVER STAR MEDAL

Edward Lee Foster

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander Edward Lee Foster (NSN: 0-70334), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy as Commanding Officer of the Destroyer Minelayer U.S.S. SHANNON (DD-737), during the Okinawa operation from 23 March to 21 June 1945. During this period his ship served a total of 32 days on transport screen and radar picket. During the assault phase of the operation his ship also served on the anti-submarine screen and later on the anti-aircraft buffer stations. Exhibiting outstanding professional skill, keen judgment and leadership, he brought his ship through a hazardous tour of duty without personal or material casualty. His ship successfully averted numerous enemy air attacks destroying seven enemy aircraft and probably destroying three others. His conduct throughout was exemplary and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: March 23 - June 21, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Shannon (DD-737)

**Minesweeper: 23 March – 3 May 1945**

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Alton Louis Clifford Waldron

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Commander Alton Louis Clifford Waldron (NSN: 0-82694), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy as Commanding Officer of a United States Minesweeper during the Okinawa operations from 23 March 1945 to 3 May 1945. In spite of the proximity to enemy shore batteries and through numerous enemy air attacks, he brought his ship through an exacting minesweeping operation without personnel or material casualty. Also serving on Radar Picket Station, his ship gave timely warning and direction during enemy air attacks, destroying six of the attacking planes and contributing to the destruction of many more. During one enemy air attack he recovered survivors from another ship of his unit which had been hit by a suicide aircraft. His efficiency, skill, performance of duty, and keen judgment contributed materially to the success of the operation, and his conduct at all times was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander Minesweepers Pacific Fleet: Serial 1439 (May 21, 1946)

Action Date: March 23 - May 3, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: United States Minesweeper

**USS *Aaron Ward* (DM-34): 3 May 1945**

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Mineman Chief Petty Officer Jack A. Offins, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during World War II

(Need Citation)

**USS *Defense* (AM-317): 6 April 1945**

## NAVY CROSS MEDAL

Gordon Abbott

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Commander Gordon Abbott, United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. DEFENSE (AM-317), during operations off the coast of Okinawa on 6 April 1945. When three enemy suicide planes made a simultaneous attack on his ship, one was shot down but damaging hits were made by the other two. Despite the continuing air attack, Commander Abbott skillfully maneuvered his ship and picked up and gave medical aid to fifty survivors of a more seriously damaged ship. Then, by expert seamanship, he took in tow of the badly damaged and disabled U.S.S. LEUTZE and towed her to safety. His gallantry and determination in action were outstanding and his conduct was at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin No. 104 (May 18, 1929)

Action Date: 6-Apr-45

Service: Naval Reserve

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Defense (AM-317)

## USS *Emmons* (DD-457): 6 April 1945 (Reclassified DMS-22 on 15 November 1944)

### NAVY CROSS MEDAL

Ross Tompkins Elliott, Jr.

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Navy Cross (Posthumously) to Ensign Ross Tompkins Elliott, Jr., United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and distinguished service in the line of his profession while serving as Assistant Gunnery and Machine-Gun Officer on board the Destroyer U.S.S. EMMONS (DD-457), during operations against enemy Japanese forces off Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Chain, on 6 April 1945. Stationed on the flying bridge, Ensign Elliott ably directed the steady fire of his weapons against an overwhelming number of Japanese kamikaze planes attempting to crash dive the deck of his ship, maintaining close control of his batteries and shooting down two of the six enemy aircraft destroyed by the EMMONS' guns during a furiously waged battle which persisted for more than two and one half hours. Suddenly aware that one of the attacking planes could not be deflected and would strike the EMMONS in the vicinity of the bridge, he ordered all personnel on the flying bridge to lie close together on the deck against the barrette, then hurled himself across the prone men as the plane crashed the ship from the port side. Fatally wounded by the enemy's strafing bullets as a result of this heroic act, Ensign Elliott had succeeded in protecting his men from serious injury and probable death, all personnel surviving without injuries despite violent explosions and fires which followed the crash. Vigilant and determined in the performance of duty, Ensign Elliott fought boldly and brilliantly in defense of his gallant ship and his indomitable fortitude and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice on behalf of his crewmen sustained and enhanced the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.

Action Date: 6-Apr-45

Service: Naval Reserve

Rank: Ensign  
Company: Assistant Gunnery and Machine-Gun Officer  
Division: U.S.S. Emmons (DD-457)

**USS *Rodman* (DMS-21): 6 April 1945**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

William Arthur Richards

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Gunner's Mate Third Class William Arthur Richards, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy as Petty Officer in charge of an ammunition handling room on the United States Minesweeper U.S.S. RODMAN (DMS-21) at Okinawa Gunto on 6 April 1945. When a serious fire caused by an enemy suicide plane crashing ship broke out in his handling room, he remained courageously at his station to direct the evacuation of personnel and ammunition. By his cool and steady manner he aided materially in the successful removal of ammunition though one projectile had already exploded and the remainder was a source of imminent danger. His outstanding performance was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: April 6, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Gunner's Mate Third Class

Division: U.S.S. Rodman (DMS-21)

**Reserve Sweep Unit: 6-26 April 1945**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Ellsworth Dudley McEathron

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander Ellsworth Dudley McEathron (NSN: 0-20394), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action during operations against the enemy as Commander Reserve Sweep Unit and Commander Task Group at Okinawa Gunto from 6 April 1945 to 26 April 1945. Despite great and constant danger from enemy aircraft, gunfire, submarines, suicide boats, and suicide swimmers, he courageously, skillfully and efficiently caused his minesweepers to clear an important harbor of enemy mines. His courage, skill and leadership were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: April 6 - 26, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

**USS *Lindsey* (DM-32): 12 April 1945**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Thomas Edward Chambers

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander Thomas Edward Chambers (NSN: 0-71324), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. LINDSEY (DM-32), during operations against the enemy in the vicinity of Okinawa Shima on 12 April 1945. His ship was hit by two suicide planes causing the Mount One Magazine to explode. By his courage, skill in combat, and determination he gave



encouragement to his crew in a manner which caused the ship to be saved. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander Min Craft Pacific Fleet: Serial 8228 (October 9, 1946)

Action Date: April 12, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Lindsey (DM-32)

**USS *Harding* (DMS-28): 16 April 1945  
SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Donald Brewster Ramage

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander [then Lieutenant Commander] Donald Brewster Ramage (NSN: 0-81163), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. HARDING (DMS-28), in action against enemy Japanese forces in the vicinity of Okinawa on 16 April 1945. When his ship was under repeated attacks by hostile suicide planes, Commander Ramage skillfully fought the HARDING and directed effective gunfire to destroy two Japanese planes. By his brilliant handling of his vessel after it had sustained damage, he undoubtedly prevented its sinking. His valiant leadership and courageous devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander Minesweepers Pacific: Serial 8228

Action Date: April 16, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Harding (DMS-28)

**Minesweeper: 28-29 April 1945  
SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Robert Messinger Hinckley, Jr.

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander Robert Messinger Hinckley, Jr. (NSN: 0-75374), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action as Commanding Officer of a United States Minesweeper in operations against the enemy in the Okinawa assault area during the night of 28 - 29 April 1945. By his courage, skill in combat, and determination, he caused his ship to deliver effective gunfire during three enemy plane attacks, two of which were determined two-plane suicide attacks, during which his ship destroyed a total of five planes in a conspicuously heroic manner. His leadership, outstanding courage, and conduct throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander Mine Craft Pacific Fleet: Serial 8228 (October 9, 1946)

Action Date: April 28 - 29, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: United States Minesweeper

**USS *Shea* (DM-30): 4 May 1945**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Charles Cochran Kirkpatrick

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander Charles Cochran Kirkpatrick (NSN: 0-70146/1100), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. SHEA (DM-3), in action against enemy Japanese forces in the vicinity of Okinawa, on 4 May 1945. When large numbers of enemy planes were detected approaching from the North while his ship was on hazardous radar picket duty in advance of our main forces, Commander Kirkpatrick coolly carried out evasive maneuvers while directing his gun batteries and friendly fighter planes in driving off the attackers. Taking immediate steps to save his ship after she was struck by a "Baka" bomb which caused severe casualties to personnel and started large fires, he heroically directed fire-fighting and damage control operations and, by inspiring his men to exert every effort, succeeded in extinguishing three dangerous fires and in restoring his listing ship to an even keel. His courageous leadership and devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander, MinePac: Serial 006 (February 7, 1946)

Action Date: 4-May-45

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Shea (DM-30)

Willard Young Howell

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Lieutenant Commander Willard Young Howell (NSN: 0-82341), United States Navy, for meritorious service as Executive Officer of the U.S.S. SHEA (DM-30), in action against enemy Japanese forces in the vicinity of Okinawa, on 4 May 1945. When his ship was damaged during an enemy air attack, Lieutenant Commander Howell immediately took charge at the scene of damage and skillfully directed his crews in rapidly extinguishing several dangerous fires and in limiting and controlling flooding, thereby enabling his vessel to make port under her own power. His leadership and courageous devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. (Lieutenant Commander Howell is authorized to wear the Combat "V".)

Action Date: May 4, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Division: U.S.S. Shea (DM-30)

**USS *Forrest* (DD-461): 27 May 1945**  
**(Reclassified DMS-24 on 15 November 1944)**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Sanford Elza Woodard

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Commander Sanford Elza Woodard (NSN: 0-78696), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. FORREST (DD-461) at Okinawa Gunto on 27 May 1945. By his outstanding leadership and skillful seamanship his ship delivered accurate and deadly fire when attacked simultaneously by three enemy suicide aircraft and maneuvered so as to successfully evade the attack. Two of the aircraft were shot down by his ship and the third escaped into the clouds and later returned making a shallow suicide dive into his ship. By quick and effective fire fighting, the fires were extinguished, personnel saved and damage to the ship minimized. His action in stopping the engines when he was sure that a hit was inevitable undoubtedly saved his ship and remained underway. His outstanding conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. General Orders: Commander Mine Craft Pacific Fleet: Serial 8228 (October 9, 1946)

Action Date: May 27, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Forrest (DD-461)

**Destroyer Minelayer: 27-28 May 1945**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Wilbur Haines Cheney, Jr.

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander Wilbur Haines Cheney, Jr. (NSN: 0-4168), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving as Commanding Officer of a United States Destroyer Minelayer during the Okinawa Campaign. While patrolling a radar picket station on the night of 27 - 28 May 1945, his ship was attacked by an estimated thirty enemy aircraft using bombs, torpedoes, and suicide tactics. His skillful ship-handling, excellent gunnery, and leadership resulted in the destruction of three enemy aircraft and in the probable destruction of three others. Despite overwhelming odds, he averted the attacks without personnel or material casualty to his ship or to any of the ships on his station. His courage and conduct throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander Mine Craft Pacific Fleet: Serial 01466 (May 21, 1946)

Action Date: May 27 - 28, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: United States Destroyer Minelayer

**USS *J. William Ditter* (DM-31): 6 June 1945**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Robert Roy Sampson

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander Robert Roy Sampson (NSN: 0-70067), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. J. WILLIAM DITTER (DM-31), during operations against the enemy in the vicinity of

Okinawa Shima, on 6 June 1945. His ship was hit by two enemy suicide planes sustaining major damage. By his courage and skill in combat, and determination, he gave encouragement to his crew in a manner that not only saved his ship but caused the destruction of five enemy aircraft. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander Mine Craft Pacific: Serial 8228 (October 9, 1946)

Action Date: June 6, 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. J. William Ditter (DM-31)

## **KOREAN WAR**

**USS *Chatterer* (AMS-40): 25 June 1950 – 31 May 1951**

### **BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

James Patrick McMahon

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Lieutenant [then Lieutenant, Junior Grade] James Patrick McMahon (NSN: 0-472745), United States Navy, for gallantry in action and meritorious devotion to duty as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. CHATTERER (AMS-40) during the period from 25 June 1950 to 31 May 1951. Lieutenant, Junior Grade, McMahon participated with distinction in practically all the major minesweeping operations, sweeping a total of 29 enemy mines. Despite the adverse effect on morale of witnessing the sinking of five friendly ships (four of them sweepers) by mines and difficulties resulting from the rugged weather and the danger of enemy shore batteries firing at his ship at point blank range, Lieutenant, Junior Grade McMahon, by outstanding leadership and professional attainments maintained his ship at a high peak of efficiency, performance and morale. His small armament returned the shore battery fire as effectively as possible. His performance of duty contributed in a large measure to the successful accomplishment of heavier units of the naval seapower in their assigned tasks and his performance of duty was at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 292 (February 12, 1952)

Action Date: June 25, 1950 - May 31, 1951

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Chatterer (AMS-40)

**USS *Magpie* (AMS-25): 1 October 1950**

### **SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Vail P. Carpenter

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Chief Boatswain's Mate Vail P. Carpenter (NSN: 3930857), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and meritorious devotion to duty, as the senior surviving member of the crew of the U.S.S. MAGPIE (AMS-25) which was mined off the East Coast of Korea on

1 October 1950. Chief Boatswain's Mate Carpenter refused to leave his ship, which had been literally disintegrated by a mine, until he made absolutely certain that no living person remained on board, personally making a complete search of the rapidly sinking ship. Then by superb leadership and cool courage, Chief Boatswain's Mate Carpenter assisted all surviving personnel to a place of safety on board the one undamaged and overloaded life raft. Chief Boatswain's Mate Carpenter remained clear of the raft in order to avoid further overloading and was the last man to be pulled from the water during the subsequent rescue. The conduct displayed by Chief Boatswain's Mate Carpenter throughout reflect the highest credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander Naval Forces Far East: Serial 7587 (December 26, 1950)

Action Date: October 1, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Boatswain's Mate

Division: U.S.S. Magpie (AMS-25)

## **LANDING AT WONSAN**

**Mine Division 31: 12 October 1950**

**NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Darcy V. Shouldice

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Darcy V. Shouldice (NSN: 0-99333), United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving as Commander of Mine Division 31 and in Tactical Command of that Division during mine sweeping operations off Wonsan Harbor, on the Coast of Korea, on 12 October 1950. When two heavy mine sweepers of another Division were mined within a few minutes of each other and were still under severe enemy gunfire from hostile shore batteries, Lieutenant Commander Shouldice led his Division into supporting positions exposed to enemy fire in order to rescue survivors and to take in tow a third heavy mine sweeper. Maneuvering his command skillfully throughout this operation in un-swept and densely mined waters, he returned effective gunfire against enemy shore batteries until his Division and tow had reached safe waters without further loss or serious damage. In the following days, Lieutenant Commander Shouldice continued to lead his Division in the vital task of sweeping heavily mined areas until an anchorage and a channel had been cleared to the landing beaches, thereby contributing essentially to the success of Naval operations in the Wonsan area. His inspiring leadership and gallant devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 12-Oct-50

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: Mine Division 31

**Mine Division Thirty-Two: 10-12 October 1950**

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Bruce M. Hyatt

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Commander Bruce M. Hyatt, United States Naval Reserve, for gallantry and intrepidity in action as Commander Mine Division THIRTY-TWO and in tactical command of that division during minesweeping operations conducted in Wonsan Harbor preliminary to occupation of Wonsan, Korea by United Nations forces. During the period 10 to 12 October 1950. The ships of his division penetrated to a depth of 19 miles from the outer mine defenses through heavily mined waters until well within range of enemy shore batteries. On 12 October he penetrated two lines of mines barring the entrance to the outer harbor and carried out the sweeping plans in the face of enemy gunfire until his flagship was mine. His leadership and professional competence contributed greatly to the efficient operation of the ships of his division and his loyalty and steadfast devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U. S. Naval Service.

Action Date: October 10 - 12, 1950

Service: Naval Reserve

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commander

Division: Mine Division 32

**USS *Pirate* (AM-275): 10-12 October 1950**  
**SILVER STAR MEDALS - 2**

Henry E. Davies, Jr.

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant, Junior Grade Henry E. Davies, Jr. (NSN: 0-478746), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action as Executive Officer of the U.S.S. PIRATE (AM-275) during minesweeping operations in densely mined areas off Wonsan, Korea, on 12 October 1950. After his ship had struck a mine and having been ordered over the side by his Commanding Officer, he observed our men in the water all of whom were either wounded or dazed. Despite the fact that the vessel's list was increasing rapidly and danger of her capsizing was imminent he towed them clear and assisted them in reaching a life raft. Then, with complete disregard for the enemy gunfire and his own personal safety, he boarded a passing boat to aid in the evacuation of wounded men from a stricken sister ship. His courageous actions minimized the loss of life and contributed materially to the successful clearance of mine free channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan. His loyalty and steadfast devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 316 (March 2, 1951)

Action Date: October 12, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade

Company: Executive Officer

Division: U.S.S. Pirate (AM-275)

Cornelius E. McMullen

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

For gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Commanding Officer of the USS PIRATE during minesweeping operations conducted in heavily mined waters and in area subjected to enemy gunfire during the period 10 to 12 Oct 1950. The inspiring leadership and professional competence constantly displayed by Lt McMullen in the performance of

this mission contributed directly to the efficient operation of his ship and to the successful clearance of mine free channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan, Korea. His loyalty and steadfastness to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. Source: Silver Star Medal Award to Lt. C. E. McMullen, 3 January 1951, Commendation Card for MC MULLEN, Cornelius E., Operational Archives Branch, Naval Historical Center, Washington, DC.

**USS *Pledge* (AM-277): 10-12 October 1950**  
**SILVER STAR MEDALS - 3**

Harry L. Link

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Engineman Third Class Harry L. Link (NSN: 3730516), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action as a Fireman in the Forward Engine Room on board the U.S.S. PLEDGE (AM-277), during minesweeping operations in densely mined areas subjected to enemy gunfire off Wonsan, Korea, on 12 October 1950. Although painfully injured and dazed, he heroically assisted a semi-conscious shipmate who was unable to help himself to escape from the rapidly flooding engine room, and when clear of the ship, cared for him until picked up by a passing boat. His outstanding courage and steadfast devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 262 (February 20, 1951)

Action Date: September 26, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Engineman Third Class

Division: U.S.S. Pledge (AM-277)

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

Aubrey L. McIlvaine

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant, Junior Grade Aubrey L. McIlvaine (NSN: 0-433069), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action as Safety Officer on a 3-inch gun on board the U.S.S. PLEDGE (AM-277) during minesweeping operations in densely mined areas subjected to enemy gunfire off Wonsan, Korea, on 12 October 1950. Through his leadership and judgment his gun crew took under fire and silenced two enemy shore batteries firing on a stricken sister ship, and after his own ship was mined, he unselfishly organized and directed the orderly evacuation of his crew, though painfully injured, thereby contributing to the successful clearing of mine free channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan. His outstanding courage and steadfast devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 262 (February 20, 1951)

Action Date: October 12, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade

Company: Safety Officer

Division: U.S.S. Pledge (AM-277)

Richard O. Young

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

For gallantry and intrepidity in action as Commanding Officer of the USS PLEDGE while engaged in mine sweeping operations in densely mined waters off Wonsan, Korea and in areas subjected to heavy gunfire from enemy shore batteries during the period 10 to 12 Oct. 1950. His inspiring leadership and professional ability contributed to the successful clearance of mine free channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan. His loyalty and steadfast devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U. S. Naval Service."

Source: Silver Star Medal Award to Lt. R. O. Young on 3 January 1951, Commendation Card for YOUNG, Richard O., Operational Archives Branch, Naval Historical Center, Washington, DC.

**Task Group 95.6: 10-31 October 1950**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Don C. DeForest

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Commander Don C. DeForest (NSN: 0-83052), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with Task Group 95.6 while engaged in operations in enemy mined waters and in areas subjected to enemy gunfire during the period 10 to 31 October 1950. When a minesweeper was mined in an adjacent area he took personal charge of a rescue boat and proceeded into heavily mined waters and effected the rescue of all surviving personnel. At a later date he proceeded alone into an area not cleared of enemy snipers and obtained intelligence information essential to the operations then being conducted. His inspiring leadership and professional competence contributed directly to the successful accomplishment of the mission of the Task Group and to the successful clearance of mine free channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan, Korea. His loyalty and steadfast devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1204 (December 13, 1950)

Action Date: October 10 - 31, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Division: Task Group 95.6

**USS *Chatterer* (AMS-40): 10-31 October 1950**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

James Patrick McMahan

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant, Junior Grade James Patrick McMahan (NSN: 0-472745), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy during mine sweeping operations at Wonsan in the Korean theater during the period 10 to 31 October 1950. As Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. CHATTERER (AMS-40) and while sweeping enemy minefields in the face of heavy fire from enemy coast defense batteries, by his inspiring leadership and professional competence, he contributed directly to the efficient operation of his ship and the successful clearance of mine free channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1073 (November 17, 1950)

Action Date: October 10 - 31, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade



Company: Commanding Officer  
Division: U.S.S. Chatterer (AMS-40)

**USS *Incredible* (AM-249): 10-31 October 1950**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Edward P. Flynn, Jr.

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Edward P. Flynn, Jr. (NSN: 0-88749), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy during mine sweeping operations in Wonsan in the Korean theater during the period 10 to 31 October 1950. As Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. INCREDIBLE (AM-249) and while sweeping enemy mine fields in the face of heavy fire from enemy coast defense batteries, by his inspiring leadership and professional competence, he contributed directly to the efficient operations of his ship and the successful clearance of mine free channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1073 (November 17, 1950)

Action Date: October 10 - 31, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Incredible (AM-249)

**USS *Kite* (AMS-22): 10-31 October 1950**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Nicholas Grkovic

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant [then Lieutenant, Junior Grade] Nicholas Grkovic (NSN: 0-447427/1100), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the Minesweeper U.S.S. KITE (AMS-22), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea from 10 to 31 October 1950. A highly skilled and resolute officer, Lieutenant Grkovic boldly directed his ship in the hazardous task of sweeping enemy mines from channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan in the face of heavy fire from hostile coast defense batteries. By his inspiring leadership throughout this intensive action, he contributed materially to the ultimate success of the operation. His marked courage, expert seamanship and steadfast devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon Lieutenant Grkovic and the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1073 (November 17, 1950)

Action Date: October 10 - 31, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Kite (AMS-22)

**USS *Mockingbird* (AMS-27): 10-31 October 1950**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Stanley Platt Gary

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant, Junior Grade Stanley Platt Gary (NSN: 0-485174), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy during mine sweeping operations at Wonsan in the Korean Theater during the period 10 to 31 October 1950. As Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. MOCKING BIRD (AMS-27), and while sweeping enemy mine fields in the face of heavy fire from enemy coast defense batteries, by his inspiring leadership and professional competence, he contributed directly to the efficient operation of his ship and the successful clearance of mine free channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1073 (November 17, 1950)

Action Date: October 10 - 31, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Mocking Bird (AMS-27)

**USS *Osprey* (AMS-28): 10-31 October 1950**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Philip Levin

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant, Junior Grade Philip Levin (NSN: 0-482912), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy during mine sweeping operations at Wonsan in the Korean theater during the period 10 to 31 October 1950. As Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. OSPREY (AMS-28) and while sweeping enemy mine fields in the face of heavy fire from enemy coast defense batteries, by his inspiring leadership and professional competence, he contributed directly to the efficient operation of his ship and the successful clearance of mine free channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1073 (November 17, 1950)

Action Date: October 10 - 31, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Osprey (AMS-28)

Chief Petty Officer Ray B. Andresen

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

Received the Bronze Star for jumping into the water during the recovery of minesweeping gear and pushing a contact mine caught in the gear away from the fantail of the USS *Osprey* (AMS-28).

Date of action was late 1950 or early 1951

(Need Citation)

**USS *Partridge* (AMS-31): 10-31 October 1950**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Robert C. Fuller, Jr.

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Robert C. Fuller, Jr. (NSN: 0-432656), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy during mine sweeping operations at Wonsan in the Korean theater during the period 10 to 31 October 1950. As Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. PARTRIDGE (AMS-31), and while sweeping enemy mine fields in the face of heavy fire from enemy coast defense batteries, by his inspiring leadership and professional competence, he contributed directly to the efficient operation of his ship and the successful clearance of mine free channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1073 (November 17, 1950)

Action Date: October 10 - 31, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Partridge (AMS-31)

**USS *Redhead* (AMS-34): 10-31 October 1950**

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

T. R. Howard

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant, Junior Grade "T" "R" Howard, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. REDHEAD (AMS-34), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea, from 10 to 31 October 1950. A highly skilled and resolute officer, Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Howard boldly directed his ship in the hazardous task of sweeping enemy mines from channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan in the face of heavy fire from hostile coast defense batteries. By his inspiring leadership throughout this intensive action, he contributed materially to the ultimate success of the operation. His marked courage, expert seamanship and steadfast devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Howard and the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1073 (November 17, 1950)

Action Date: October 10 - 31, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Redhead (AMS-34)

Seaman Apprentice James DeMaio, Jr. United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

Awarded Bronze Star for heroic actions at Wonsan, Korea on 12 October 1950 while a crewmember aboard the Auxiliary Motor Minesweeper USS REDHEAD (AMS-34).

Source: *All Hands* magazine, November 1952

(Need Citation)

**Underwater Demolition Team Three: 10-31 October 1950**

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

**BRONZE STAR MEDALS - 17**

William Russell McKinney

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant Commander William Russell McKinney (NSN: 0-85170), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity during minesweeping operations at Wonsan, Korea, from 10 to 31 October 1950. While serving as Commanding Officer of Underwater Demolition Team THREE which participated in sweeping enemy mine fields in the face of heavy fire from enemy coast defense batteries by his inspiring leadership and professional competence he contributed directly to the successful clearance of mine free channel and anchorage areas off Wonsan.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1070 (November 17, 1950)

Action Date: October 10 - 31, 1950

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: Underwater Demolition Team 3

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

For their work in rescuing twenty-five sailors from the minesweepers USS Pirate and USS Pledge (which were mined, shelled, and sunk by the enemy) and caring for injured men at Wonsan, the below members of Underwater Demolition Team Three received the Bronze Star Medal:

- Lieutenant Daniel F. Chandler, United States Navy
- Lieutenant (junior grade) Philip M. Master, United States Naval Reserve
- Seaman Philip E. Carrico, United States Navy

[For] "heroic service in action against the enemy during minesweeping operations at Wonsan, Korea." Seaman Carrico was credited with diving into the water under enemy gunfire and towing two injured men aboard a life raft to a nearby craft. He also assisted five other men to life rafts, and eventual safety. The survivors rescued by Seaman Carrico were from the USS Pledge and USS Pirate, which had been struck by enemy mines and gunfire. "His devotion to duty was outstanding, and in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service." Source: newspaper article titled 'Frogman' Carrico Gets Bronze Star.

- Engineman First Class Christie J. Coleman, United States Navy
- Stewardsman Lucio De La Calzada, United States Navy
- Seaman William B. Derry, United States Navy
- Boatswain's Mate Third Edward M. Hazzard, United States Navy
- Seaman James W. Hoag, United States Navy
- Fireman Billie La R. Johnson, United States Navy
- Chief Boatswain's Mate Dennis J. Keane, Jr., United States Navy
- Draftsman (DMSV) Robert H. Larkin, United States Navy
- Quartermaster Second Charles F. Laws, United States Navy
- Electronics Technician First James K. Sellers, United States Navy
- Boatswain's Mate First Joseph F. Staley, United States Navy
- Seaman Willis B. Taylor, United States Navy
- Engineman Fireman Ralph C. Voltmer, United States Navy
- Boatswain's Mate First Robert H. Walker, United States Navy

Source: U.S. Navy Publication *All Hands*, February 1952

(Need Citations)

**Underwater Demolition Team Three: Date of Action Unknown**  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Gunners Mate First William J. Giannotti, United States Navy  
Awarded for actions during the Korean War  
For risking his life placing underwater demolition charges that removed two anchored mines  
Source: U.S. Navy Publication *All Hands*, February 1952  
(Need Citation)

**Underwater Reconnaissance Element: 10-22 October 1950**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Stephen Morris Archer  
Awarded for actions during the Korean War  
The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Commander Stephen Morris Archer (NSN: 0-71396), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action as Commander Underwater Reconnaissance Element in support of naval forces conducting operations in heavily mined waters during the period 10 to 22 October 1950. When the U.S.S. PLEDGE and U.S.S. PIRATE were mined on 12 October, he conducted rescue operations for surviving personnel with disregard for his own safety in the face of enemy gunfire from shore batteries. The leadership, force, and judgment displayed by Commander Archer in directing visual and sonar searches for mines throughout this period and in supervising underwater demolition operations in the vicinity of Koto and Rei-To Islands contributed directly to the successful clearance of mine channels and anchorage areas off Wonsan, Korea. His outstanding courage and steadfast devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.  
General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1204 (December 13, 1950)  
Action Date: October 10 - 22, 1950  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Commander  
Company: Commander  
Division: Under Water Reconnaissance Element

**MINE CLEARANCE OPERATIONS AT CHINNAMPO**

**Underwater Demolition Team One: 12-26 October 1950**  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Gunner's Mate Third Allen J. Glassey, United States Navy  
Awarded for actions during the Korean War  
Received Bronze Star for heroic actions during the period 15 to 26 October 1950, while attached to Underwater Demolition Team One conducting mine clearance operations at Chinnampo.  
Source: *All Hands* magazine, November 1952  
(Need Citation)

**USS *Carmick* (DM-33): October 1950**  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Mineman Seaman Apprentice Harold Elston, United States Navy  
Awarded for actions during the Korean War

Received the Bronze Star for heroic actions while conducting small boat minesweeping at the Port of Chinnampo, on Korea's West Coast, in late October 1950.  
(Need Citation)

## **MINESWEEPING OPERATIONS NEAR YONG-YANG**

### **USS *Partridge* (AMS-31): 2 February 1951 SILVER STAR MEDALS – 2 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL**

William D. Haines

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Engineman First Class William D. Haines, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while attached to and serving on board the U.S.S. PARTRIDGE (AMS-31) on 2 February 1951. When that ship struck an enemy mine while engaged in minesweeping operations in the Korean Combat Zone, two men were seriously injured and pinned down in the wreckage of the pilot house. Despite the short time this type of vessel usually stayed afloat after striking a mine he quickly climbed the wreckage, and with the aid of another, successfully rescued two men. Not until the vessel began to sink rapidly did he abandon ship. By his aggressive initiative coupled with complete disregard for his own safety, Engineman First Class Haines contributed greatly to the safety of his shipmates, and his zealous devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1221 (August 4, 1951)

Action Date: February 2, 1951

Service: Navy

Rank: Engineman First Class

Division: U.S.S. Partridge (AMS-31)

Robert E. Shewmaker

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Yeoman Third Class Robert E. Shewmaker (NSN: 3447036), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while attached to and serving on board the U.S.S. PARTRIDGE (AMS-31), on 2 February 1951. When that ship struck an enemy mine while engaged in minesweeping operations in the Korean combat zone, two men were seriously injured and pinned down in the wreckage. With the aid of another, he successfully rescued these two men. Not until the vessel began to sink rapidly did he abandon ship. By his aggressive initiative coupled with complete disregard for his own safety, Yeoman Third Class Shewmaker contributed greatly to the safety of his shipmates, and his zealous devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 1221 (August 4, 1951)

Action Date: February 2, 1951

Service: Navy

Rank: Yeoman Third Class

Division: U.S.S. Partridge (AMS-31)

Joseph J. Polackwich, Jr.

Awarded for actions during the Korean War  
Boatswain's Mate Second Class Joseph J. Polackwich, Jr., United States Navy, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy in rescuing survivors of U.S.S. PARTRIDGE (AMS-31), on 2 February 1951.

General Orders: All Hands (December 1953)

Action Date: February 2, 1951

Service: Navy

Rank: Boatswain's Mate Second Class

Division: U.S.S. Partridge (AMS-31)

## **MINESWEEPING OPERATIONS AT WONSAN**

**USS *Kite* (AMS-22): 9 November 1951**

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Orville W. McCubbin

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Boatswain's Mate First Class Orville W. McCubbin (NSN: 3561865), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity and meritorious devotion to duty as Minesweep Boatswain's Mate aboard the U.S.S. KITE (AMS-22), during combat minesweeping operations off Wonsan, Korea, on 9 November 1951. While recovering minesweep gear upon completion of a hazardous night operation, Boatswain's Mate Second Class McCubbin spotted a live mine caught in the end cutter five feet from the stern of the ship in such a position that its detonation could be expected at any minute. With complete disregard for his own safety he remained on his station and directed the paying out of the gear to remove the danger to his ship. His alertness and devotion to duty were the only factors preventing the loss of the ship and the lives of his fellow crewmen as the mine exploded forty feet astern. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 204 (February 4, 1952)

Action Date: November 9, 1951

Service: Navy

Rank: Boatswain's Mate First Class

Division: U.S.S. Kite (AMS-22)

**Minesweeping Boat Division One: 25 March 1952**

**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL**

Boatswain's Mate First Class Lewis W. Yore, United States Navy, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy while serving as Boat Captain in Minesweeping Boat Division ONE, on 25 March 1952.

General Orders: All Hands (August 1953)

Action Date: March 25, 1952

Service: Navy

Rank: Boatswain's Mate First Class

Division: Minesweeping Boat Division 1

## **INSHORE MINE CLEARANCE**

### **USS *Chatterer* (AMS-40): 5 May 1952 SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Ernest Carl Castle

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Lieutenant, Junior Grade Ernest Carl Castle (NSN: 0-512965), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action as Minesweeping Officer on board the U.S.S. CHATTERER (AMS-40), during sweeping operations in the Korean Theater on the night of 5 May 1952. When the CHATTERER was working close inshore within easy range of Communist guns, an enemy mine became fouled in the ship's port otter. The sea was high and the ship was rolling heavily, posing a grave threat to the safety of ship and crew. With great courage and complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Castle volunteered to clear the fouled mine. Because of the proximity of enemy shore batteries only the most limited amount of light could be provided for the operation. He worked the mine in close to the stern of the ship and found the severed cable entwined in the otter of the sweep gear. Despite the continuing pounding of the mine by the otter which threatened to explode it at any moment, Lieutenant, Junior Grade, Castle hung precariously over the stern of the ship by his legs and cleared the mine having to fend it off several times with his hands to prevent it from striking the ship and exploding, thereby averting damages or possible sinking of his ship. His outstanding courage and steadfast devotion to duty was at all times in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Commander 7th Fleet: Serial 971 (May 16, 1953)

Action Date: May 5, 1952

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade

Company: Minesweeping Officer

Division: U.S.S. Chatterer (AMS-40)

## **MINE DESTRUCTION IN THE SONGJIN-CHONGJIN AREA**

### **USS *McDermut* (DD-677): 5 August 1952 – 28 February 1953 BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Charles Richardson Chandler

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" to Commander Charles Richardson Chandler (NSN: 0-82319), United States Navy, for meritorious service as Commanding Officer of the Destroyer U.S.S. McDERMUT (DD-677), during combat operations against enemy North Korean and Chinese Communist Forces in the Korean Theater from 5 August 1952 to 28 February 1953. Commander Chandler consistently demonstrated an aggressive competence which demanded a high state of performance from his crew. During this period the McDERMUT operated as a unit of Task Force Element NINETY-FIVE POINT TWENTY-TWO, and Task Element NINETY-FIVE POINT TWENTY-ONE. While operating in the Songjin-Chongjin area he located and destroyed five Russian Type MK twenty-six mines, after which he proceeded to the vicinity of Yang-do to render assistance to the U.S.S. THOMPSON



which had been damaged by enemy shore batteries. From 21 to 23 August 1952, he patrolled the East Coast of Korea, effectively blocking rail and road traffic on enemy transportation routes and preventing repair of previously inflicted damage. He provided gunfire support for minesweeping operations conducted by the U.S.S. COMPETENT and U.S.S. ZEAL and when shore batteries opened fire he interposed his ship between the minesweepers and the beach, and by accurate counter-battery fire successfully silenced three enemy batteries. His inspiring leadership and steadfast devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Serial 1218 (June 5, 1953)

Action Date: August 5, 1952 - February 28, 1953

Service: Navy

Rank: Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. McDermut (DD-677)

**USS *Carmick* (DMS-33): 5 February 1953  
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL**

Armando P. Morilos

Awarded for actions during the Korean War

Quartermaster Armando P. Morilos, United States Navy, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy while serving in U.S.S. CARMICK (DMS-33), on 5 February 1953.

General Orders: All Hands (December 1953)

Action Date: February 5, 1953

Service: Navy

Rank: Quartermaster

Division: U.S.S. Carmick (DMS-33)

**U.S. Naval Ordnance Facility, Port Lyautey, Kenitra, Morocco: 31 January 1958  
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDALS - 2**

James V. A. Conkey

Awarded for actions during the Cold War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Lieutenant, Junior Grade [then Ensign] James V. A. Conkey, United States Navy, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy while serving with the U.S. Naval Ordnance Facility, Port Lyautey, Kenitra, Morocco, on 31 January 1958. As Officer-in-Charge of Special Weapons Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team ONE, Lieutenant, Junior Grade Conkey displayed exceptional courage and initiative while participating in an operation of a classified nature involving great risk of injury to both himself and the members of his team.

General Orders: All Hands (September 1959)

Action Date: January 31, 1958

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Junior Grade

Company: Special Weapons Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team 1

Robert J. Reed

Awarded for actions during the Cold War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Mineman First Class Robert J. Reed, United States Navy, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy while serving with the U.S. Naval Ordnance Facility, Port Lyautey, Kenitra, Morocco, on 31 January 1958. As a member of Special Weapons Disposal Team Number ONE, Mineman First Class Reed displayed exceptional courage and initiative while participating in an operation of a classified nature involving great risk of injury to himself and others.

General Orders: All Hands (August 1959)

Action Date: January 31, 1958

Service: Navy

Rank: Mineman First Class

Company: Special Weapons Disposal Team Number 1

### **SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

#### **U.S. Naval Harbor Defense Unit, San Francisco: 8 June 1959 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL**

Kenneth E. Harder

Awarded for actions during the Cold War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Mineman First Class Kenneth E. Harder, United States Navy, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy while serving on board the United States Naval Harbor Defense Unit, San Francisco, California, on the afternoon of 8 June 1959. Hearing cries for help while he was working in a building adjacent to the dock, Mineman First Class Harder immediately rushed out onto the pier and observed two people in the water being swept out to sea by the swift current. Quickly removing his clothes, he snatched a life ring, plunged into the treacherous waters and swam a distance of approximately 200 yards to the side of the victims, a father and his three-year-old son. Despite the strong current and cold and choppy waters, Mineman First Class Harder managed to keep all of them above water until a rescue craft arrived.

General Orders: All Hands (December 1959)

Action Date: June 8, 1959

Service: Navy

Rank: Mineman First Class

### **PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII**

#### **Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit One, Pearl Harbor: 15 December 1961 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDALS - 2**

William H. Berryman

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Chief Hospital Corpsman William H. Berryman, United States Navy, for heroic conduct on 15 December 1961 while serving with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit One, Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii. Engaged in diving operations at a depth of 75 feet in waters off Pearl Harbor Entrance when a fellow diver experienced difficulty and began to go into convulsions, Chief Berryman, along with another diver, quickly moved to assist the

victim to the surface. Despite the great personal danger from the physiological effects of emergency ascent from the ocean depths, Chief Berryman persisted in his rescue efforts at the same time taking the necessary actions to prevent further mishap to the disabled diver. After reaching the surface and placing the helpless man in the diving boat, Chief Berryman administered first aid and resuscitation until medical facilities could be reached at the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor.

General Orders: All Hands (July 1962)

Action Date: December 15, 1961

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Hospital Corpsman

Company: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit 1

Wilbur H. Grose, Jr.

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Boatswain's Mate Second Class Wilbur H. Grose, Jr., United States Navy, for heroic conduct on 15 December 1961 while serving with Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit One, Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Hawaii. Engaged in diving operations at a depth of 75 feet in waters off Pearl Harbor Entrance when a fellow diver experienced difficulty and began to go into convulsions, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Grose, along with another diver, quickly moved to assist the victim to the surface. Despite the great personal danger from the physiological effects of emergency ascent from the ocean depths, Boatswain's Mate Second Class Grose persisted in his rescue efforts at the same time taking the necessary actions to prevent further mishap to the disabled diver.

General Orders: All Hands (July 1962)

Action Date: December 15, 1961

Service: Navy

Rank: Boatswain's Mate Second Class

Company: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit 1

## **VIETNAM WAR**

### **Senior Advisor, Vietnamese EOD Company**

#### **BRONZE STAR**

Lieutenant Lawrence E. Ronan, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

(Need Citation)

#### **River Flotilla One**

#### **BRONZE STAR (2<sup>ND</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Awards)**

Lieutenant Commander Lawrence E. Ronan, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

(Need Citations)

## **OFF THE CA MAU PENINSULA**

**USS *Vireo* (MSC-205): 10 May 1966**

#### **BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Peter J. Mermagen

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War  
For heroic achievement in connection with destruction of an enemy gun runner on 10 May 1966, while serving as Commanding Officer of USS Vireo (MSC-205). Lieutenant Mermagen directed his lightly armed ship and proceeded with expert seamanship in hazardously shallow and dangerous waters to a position from which Vireo could provide fire support and forward coordination to the afloat units, while simultaneously preparing for salvage operations of the enemy grounded vessel. While prosecuting this action, he provided first aid to wounded crewmembers of USCGC Point Grey and a safe haven for USS Brister (DER-327) motor whaleboat and crew. Throughout Vireo's participation, Lieutenant Mermagen's calmness under fire was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.  
Action Date: May 10, 1966

### **LONG TAU RIVER**

**Minesweeping Boat *MSB-31*: 14 July 1966 – 1 June 1967  
BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Donald S. Duncan  
Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War  
Action date: July 14, 1966 - June 1, 1967

**Minesweeping Boat *MSB-54*: 29 August 1966  
BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

William W. Johnson  
Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War  
Action Date: August 29, 1966

**Minesweeping Boat *MSB-15*: 22 September 1966  
BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Edward T. Whaley  
Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War  
Action Date: September 22, 1966

**Explosive Ordnance Group One: 1967-1971  
BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Mineman First Class B. E. 'Rebb' Rebbetoy, United States Navy  
Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War  
(Need Citation)

### **SOUTH-SOUTHWEST OF NHA BE, NEAR LONG HIEP HAMLET**

**Mine Squadron Eleven Detachment Alfa: 20 January 1967  
SILVER STAR MEDAL**

William D. Jones  
Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War  
Action Date: January 20, 1967

## LONG TAU RIVER

### **Minesweeping Boat *MSB-51*: 15 February 1967 SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Arnold Roy Ahlbom

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Seaman Arnold Roy Ahlbom (NSN: B-606678), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the Communist insurgent forces in the Republic of Vietnam. Seaman Ahlbom was assigned as the deck seaman and gunner on board MSB-51. On the morning of 15 February 1967, MSB-51 and MSB-49 were conducting mine countermeasures in the Long Tau River when they came under an intense enemy attack from two platoons of Viet Cong firing 75-mm. recoilless rifles and automatic weapons. MSB-49 was severely damaged, went dead in the water and started sinking. Seaman Ahlbom immediately opened fire from his .50 caliber machine gun mount delivering heavy, accurate suppressive fire. When his boat went alongside MSB-49, he left his station, exposed to enemy fire, and went aboard the stricken minesweeper administering first aid to the several wounded, jettisoning ammunition and removing the weapons denying their capture by the enemy. He personally climbed high above the main deck and removed a .50 caliber machine gun completely exposing himself to the continuing intense fire. With MSB-49 forced onto the near bank, Seaman Ahlbom went ashore in the enemy controlled territory and secured the grounded MSB's stern line to the trees. He then assisted in transferring the critically wounded to River Patrol Boats (PBR) for further medical evacuation by helicopter. He continued rendering first aid to other injured personnel aboard his boat being transferred to Nha Be. Later the same day, MSB-51 came under two more Viet Cong ambushes with the enemy using rockets, automatic weapons and small arms fire. One rocket struck directly below Seaman Ahlbom's station severely wounding him with deadly shrapnel fragmentations. Though stunned from the initial explosion and bleeding profusely, he bravely continued an intensive counterattack. Again, on several occasions, he exposed himself to the enemy fire in carrying out his assignments. Seaman Ahlbom's extreme courage under fire, sense of responsibility and loyal devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: February 15, 1967

Service: Navy

Rank: Seaman

Division: MSB-51

### **Minesweeping Boat *MSB-51*: 15 February 1967 SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Boatswains Mate First John O. Hood, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

Action Date: February 15, 1967

## DONG HA RIVER

**Armored Troop Carrier *ATC-112-7*: 14 March 1968**

**(Performing minesweeping)**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Edward Joseph Hagl

Awarded posthumously for actions during the Vietnam War

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Silver Star (Posthumously) to Boatswain's Mate First Class Edward Joseph Hagl (NSN: 5555301), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on 14 March 1968, while serving with River Assault Squadron ELEVEN, as a Unit of Task Force CLEARWATER in the Republic of Vietnam. As the Boat Captain of Armored Troops Carrier 112-7 (ATC-112-7), Petty Officer Hagl placed his boat in the lead position of the minesweeping and security element which was preceding a logistic convoy of vital supplies from Cua Viet to Dong Ha, in the heavily-contested Northern I Corps Area of Vietnam. Having full knowledge that his boat could minesweep only for command-detonated mines, and realizing that he had no means of coping with either magnetic or contact mines, he unhesitatingly directed his boat and led the convoy through an area which had been the scene of numerous enemy ambushes and minings. Petty Officer Hagl had succeeded in leading the convoy through five miles of hostile waters before his boat detonated a mine which destroyed the boat and caused his death. His gallant actions enabled the remaining sweep and security boats and the logistic convoy to safely transit this dangerous area and successfully deliver their vital cargo to Dong Ha. Petty Officer Hagl's leadership, courage, and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Board Serial 1558PO9B1 (April 25, 1968)

Service: Navy

Rank: Boatswain's Mate First Class

Regiment: River Assault Squadron 11

**ONG HUONG RIVER**

**Assault Support Patrol Boat *ASPB-111-1*: 26 May 1968**  
**NAVY CROSS**

John W. O'Kelley

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Seaman John W. O'Kelley, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism on 26 May 1968 while serving with friendly forces engaged in armed conflict against communist insurgent (Viet Cong) forces in the Republic of Vietnam while assigned to River Assault Division 111, River Assault Squadron ELEVEN, River Assault Flotilla ONE, Task Force 117 (TF-117). Seaman O'Kelley's craft, Assault Support Patrol Boat 111-1 (ASPB-111-1), was engaged in minesweeping operations ahead of a column of River Assault Craft with embarked infantry personnel on the Ong Huong River of Kien Hoa Province when reconnaissance-by-fire delivered by ASPB 111-1 triggered a Viet Cong ambush from both sides of the narrow river. Sustaining recoilless-rifle and rocket hits in the first few minutes of the ambush, which killed the Boat Captain and the Coxswain, Seaman O'Kelley's boat went out of control and careened from bank to bank. Realizing the immediate peril to his boat and its surviving crew members, Seaman O'Kelley left his position of relative safety as a thirty-caliber machine gunner in the stern of the boat and dashed forward under a hail of enemy fire to attempt to bring the boat under control. Driven back by flames, and unable to

enter the coxswain's flat because casualties inside were blocking the door, he crawled over the top of the boat to the canopy over the coxswain's flat. After cutting through the heavy canopy in the face of continuing hostile fire, Seaman O'Kelley entered the control area, restarted one of the stalled engines, and gained partial steering control. He then brought the boat alongside the Medical Aid Boat where he rendered assistance to critically wounded personnel and helped remove them for prompt evacuation by helicopter. Had Seaman O'Kelley not taken action instantly to regain control of his boat, the entire column of River Assault Craft could have been trapped in the ambush zone, and suffered heavy casualties and disruption of the entire operation. By his heroic actions and courage under fire, Seaman O'Kelley upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Authority: Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals

Action Date: 26-May-68

Service: Navy

Rank: Seaman

Company: Assault Support Patrol Boat 111-1 (ASPB-111-1)

Battalion: River Assault Division 111

Regiment: River Assault Squadron 11, River Assault Flotilla 1

Division: Task Force 117 (TF-117)

## **OPERATION MARKET TIME**

**USS *Conquest* (MSO-488): 9 October 1968 – 12 February 1969**

### **BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

William H. Kersting

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Bronze Star Medal to Lieutenant Commander William H. KERSTING, United States Navy, for meritorious service while serving as Commanding Officer of USS CONQUEST (MSO-488) from 9 October 1968 to 12 February 1969 during combat operations against the enemy. Lieutenant Commander KERSTING displayed exceptional qualities of leadership while directing his ship in MARKET TIME Operations, Naval Gunfire Support, support of Inshore Patrol Units, surveillance of suspicious merchant vessels, participating in SAR operations, and conducting a vigorous training program to keep his ship at a high level of combat readiness. His professionalism as a Task Element Commander in planning, coordinating and executing operations contributed importantly to the success of his division in meeting every commitment imposed. As a result of his leadership, CONQUEST inflicted substantial damage upon the enemy. Lieutenant Commander KERSTING's tireless effort, initiative, and devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President

W. F. BRINGLE

Vice Admiral

United States Navy

## **CANAL BETWEEN RACH SOI AND RACH GIA**

**River Division 531: 21 November 1968**

## **NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Cecil H. Martin

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Mineman First Class Cecil H. Martin, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism on the night of 21 November 1968 while serving with River Division 531, River Patrol Flotilla FIVE, Task Force 116 (TF-116), during riverine assault operations against enemy aggressor forces in the Mekong Delta region of the Republic of Vietnam. As Senior Boat Captain of a two-boat patrol, Petty Officer Martin was transiting from Rach Soi to Rach Gia, in conjunction with a concentrated patrol program adopted for the Sea Lords interdiction campaign in the lower Delta, when his patrol came under heavy enemy attack on all sides. During the initial hail of fire, his cover boat received two direct rocket hits, wounding all personnel aboard and causing the craft to veer out of control and run aground directly in front of the enemy firing positions. Petty Officer Martin ordered his coxswain to reverse course and reenter the ambush area to rescue the cover boat's crew members. As his unit approached the stricken craft, Petty Officer Martin directed effective counterfire and, placing his boat between the beleaguered craft and the blazing enemy batteries, took command of the precarious rescue effort. While affording exemplary leadership and inspiration to the members of his surprised and battered patrol element, he directed the major fire-suppression efforts of his gunners, personally manning and firing a machine gun at crucial intervals. Additionally, Petty Officer Martin rendered first aid to casualties, extinguished a fire in the beached craft, advised his commanding officer in the Naval Operations Center of the seriousness of the situation, and coordinated the transfer of wounded personnel to his unit. Through his courageous and determined fighting spirit, he succeeded in safely extracting his men, undoubtedly saving numerous lives. His great personal valor in the face of heavy and sustained enemy fire was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: Authority: Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals

Action Date: 21-Nov-68

Service: Navy

Rank: Mineman First Class

Battalion: River Division 531

Regiment: River Patrol Flotilla 5

Division: Task Force 116 (TF-116)

### **River Division 592: August 1969-March 1970**

#### **BRONZE STAR**

Mineman Chief Petty Officer Robert W. Wilson, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

(Need Citation)

### **Vietnamese RPG 56: May 1970**

#### **BRONZE STAR (2<sup>nd</sup> Award)**

Mineman Chief Petty Officer Robert W. Wilson, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

(Need Citation)



## **CUA VIET HARBOR**

### **Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team Forty: 21 February 1969 SILVER STAR MEDAL**

James Edward Hannigan

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Chief Shipfitter James Edward Hannigan, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam. Chief Petty Officer Hannigan was attached to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team 40 under the operational control of Commander, United States Naval Support Activity, DaNang. At 0345 on 21 February 1969, he was called to the Naval Support Activity Detachment, Cua Viet, Small Boat Harbor to search for the body of a sailor missing as the result of an explosion and sinking of Mechanized Landing Craft 6 boat by an enemy mine. He donned self-contained underwater breathing apparatus and entered the water despite darkness, unfamiliarity with the area and an underwater sapper attack in progress. He searched the bottom of the harbor and with another Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team member retrieved the first Russian limpet mine in Vietnam. Despite the lack of available information on the limpet mine and its arming devices, he assisted in disarming the mine. He reentered the water and continued to search the bottom of all boats, ensuring they could safely be re-manned and removed from the danger area. Approximately five minutes after he left the water again, two major explosions occurred in the harbor. With complete disregard for his personal safety, he once again entered the water and completed checking the boats at Pusher Boat Causeway. He then crossed the Cua Viet River to recover the body of a North Vietnamese Army sapper team diver with two fragmentation grenades lashed to him. He rendered the grenades safe and recovered a complete Russian closed-circuit oxygen diving apparatus which was of great value to United States intelligence efforts. Working tirelessly for another eight hours to ensure the safety of the men in the boats and one the piers, Chief Petty Officer Hannigan's personal courage in the face of extreme hazards, professional dedication and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 21-Feb-69

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Shipfitter

Company: Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team 40

### **River Patrol Flotilla Five, River Division 671: 1970 BRONZE STAR (SECOND AWARD)**

Mineman First Class Harman R. Maddocks, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

(Need Citation)

### **River Patrol Division Fifty-Three: 1970-1971**

## **BRONZE STAR**

Mineman First Class Shelly J. Kelly, United States Navy  
Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War  
(Need Citation)

## **VINH TE CANAL**

**River Minesweeper *MSR-3*: 31 January 1970**

**SILVER STAR MEDAL  
BRONZE STAR MEDAL - 2**

Richard Lee Schreifels

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Boatswain's Mate First Class Richard Lee Schreifels, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong Communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam, on 31 January 1970. While on a night patrol near Vinh Te Canal, MSR 7 (River Minesweeper-7) came under intense enemy automatic weapons and rocket attack and received three direct rocket hits. MSR 7 burst into flames and drifted helplessly in the kill zone. As a boat captain on the MSR 3, Petty Officer Schreifels was trailing the MSR 7 at a distance of seventy-five yards. Disregarding his own safety, he radioed for help and provided assistance to the burning boat. Ignoring enemy fire, exploding ammunition and the imminent danger of a fuel explosion, he remained alongside until all remaining crew members were rescued. He then radioed the position for a helicopter strike. After leaving the area, he discovered that several MSR 7 crew members were missing and had been thrown overboard. He reentered the kill zone, losing one engine to an enemy round. He searched for the missing men, sighted three men on the beach and maneuvered his boat as close as possible while returning enemy fire. He remained in position until he men had reached the relative security of the boat. His bold courage under fire was directly responsible for saving seven lives. Petty Officer Schreifels' defiance of danger, fortitude and bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 31-Jan-70

Service: Navy

Rank: Boatswain's Mate First Class

Gunner's Mate Third Class Thomas E. Copp, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

For heroic achievement on 31 January 1970 while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam. Petty Officer Copp was serving as a machine gunner on board the cover boat of a two-boat minesweeping patrol on the Vinh Te Canal. Suddenly, the lead boat of the patrol came under intense enemy automatic-weapons and rocket attack. After receiving three direct rocket hits, the boat burst into flames and drifted helplessly into the kill zone. Petty Officer Copp immediately poured a barrage of accurate fire into the enemy positions. When his boat altered direction and he could no longer bring his weapon to bear on the enemy, he picked up a rifle and continued firing on the attackers. As his boat pulled alongside the stricken craft, Petty Officer Copp leaped aboard the burning boat to assist in removing the wounded and in dismantling the machine guns to keep them

from falling into enemy hands. Returning to his boat, he again manned his machine gun and provided accurate suppressive fire as the craft returned to the kill zone to search for three crew members of the stricken vessel who were stranded on the beach. When his weapon's ammunition had been depleted, Petty Officer Copp picked up a grenade launcher and continued to suppress the enemy attack. His accurate fire enabled his boat to rescue the three stranded men. By his professionalism, courage under fire, and inspiring devotion to duty, Petty Officer Copp upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

T. H. Moorer

Admiral, United States Navy

Chief of Naval Operations

Engineman Third Class Rulon Jay Young, United States Navy

For heroic achievement while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam. On 31 January 1970, Petty Officer YOUNG was serving as fifty caliber machine gunner on board the lead boat of a two boat mine sweeping patrol on the Vinh Te canal. Suddenly, his boat came under intense enemy automatic weapons and rocket attack. After receiving three direct rocket hits, his boat burst into flames and drifted helplessly into the kill zone. Immediately upon feeling the explosion of the first rocket, Petty Officer YOUNG swung his gun toward the attackers. He quickly realized that he could not fire without endangering his own boat and the cover boat. Demonstrating great presence of mind, he picked up a grenade launcher and began directing highly accurate fire into the enemy positions. When his weapon was rendered inoperative, he picked up a rifle and continued to return fire. When the cover boat came alongside, he leaped aboard and obtained a fire extinguisher. Ignoring enemy fire, exploding ammunition and the possibility of a fuel explosion, he fought the raging fire until his extinguisher was emptied. He then retrieved his engineering tools and assisted in dismantling the machine guns to prevent their falling into enemy hands. Petty Officer YOUNG's professionalism, courage under fire and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the President

E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.

Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy

Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam

## **GIANG THANH RIVER**

### ***MSR-3*: 13 February 1970 BRONZE STAR MEDAL (Awarded posthumously)**

Gunner's Mate Third Class Thomas E. Copp, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

For heroic achievement on 13 February 1970 while serving with friendly forces engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam. As a gunner on a minesweeper attached to Mine Division 113, Petty Officer Copp was patrolling the Glang Thanh River when his boat came under intense enemy automatic-weapons, rocket, and recoilless-rifle attack, and received five hits. While

stationed on the stern of the craft, he pinpointed the enemy positions when the attack originated, and then issued instructions to the other crew members and manned his machine gun. Petty Officer Copp commenced a withering, accurate fire until the enemy fired another salvo of rockets, one of which exploded at his station, mortally wounding him. As a direct result of his alertness and calmness under fire, his unit was able to quickly locate the source of the enemy attack. His decisive actions and effective leadership contributed to saving the lives of the other crew members on his boat. Later, with the assistance of other patrol units, the enemy fire was suppressed and the boats cleared the kill zone to medically evacuate the casualties. Petty Officer Copp's outstanding professionalism, inspiring devotion to duty, and courage under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,  
T. H. Moorer  
Admiral, United States Navy  
Chief of Naval Operations

***MSR-6: 13 February 1970***  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Gunner's Mate Third Class Ellwood W. Arnell, United States Navy  
Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

Gunner's Mate aboard the *MSR-6* on 13 February 1970 when, while conducting a day patrol with *MSR-3* on the Giang Thanh River, Viet Cong ambushed the pair of river minesweepers. In the ensuing firefight, Copp aboard the *MSR-3* was killed and the two vessels suffered nine crewmen wounded, two seriously.

(Award of medal cited in newspaper article; no citation available)

**INSHORE WATERS**

**Explosive Ordnance Team: 31 August 1970**  
**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Larry Gene Aanderud

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Torpedoman First Class Larry Gene Aanderud (NSN: 5927703), United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam on 31 August 1970. On 29 August 1970 while routinely searching for a diesel engine lost from a mined Vietnamese Navy Yabuta junk, Petty Officer Aanderud discovered a large object which upon closer inspection turned out to be a mine of unknown type. One end of the mine was covered with a plastic wrapped bundle. After removing the bundle, he discovered that it contained fifteen to twenty pounds of soft orange-colored explosive. On 31 August, Petty Officer Aanderud and another member of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team conducted a recovery operation of the mine. Due to the non-availability of a suitable remote operating lifting device, it was decided to attempt recovery of the mine by towing. Upon making a close-in inspection dive, he recognized the mine as an enemy type which had never before been recovered from the bottom after being planted and armed. Accompanied by the other diver, he performed the tie into the mine. Through the combined efforts of the boat crews and the divers, the mine

was lifted off the bottom and taken to the beach. After a seventy-two hour waiting period, he and the other diver performed the "rendering safe procedures' on the mine. During the detailed stripping of the mine, it was learned that the mine was a new unit and had been fully operative throughout the recover and "rendering safe procedures." Petty Officer Aanderud's devotion to duty, courage under fire, exemplary professionalism and outstanding leadership were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 31-Aug-70

Service: Navy

Rank: Torpedoman First Class

## **SEA BATTLE OFF THE CUA CO CHIEN RIVER**

**USS *Endurance* (MSO-435): 22 November 1970**

**SILVER STAR MEDAL**

**BRONZE STAR MEDALS - 7**

### **SILVER STAR MEDAL**

Lieutenant Commander Charles R. Schlegelmilch, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

### **BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

John C. Cotton, Gunner's Mate (Guns) Third Class, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

### **CITATION:**

For Heroic achievement while serving on Minesweeper USS ENDURANCE engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam. On 21 November 1970, Petty Officer COTTON was serving as a gunner when an enemy trawler was sighted. Reacting immediately and without regard for his own personal safety, he unleashed a devastatingly accurate barrage of fire into the trawler. Although his ship came under hostile fire, he continued to man his position until the enemy trawler was destroyed. His untiring efforts significantly contributed to thwarting an enemy infiltration attempt and to denying the enemy use of needed arms and ammunition. Petty Officer COTTON's exemplary professionalism, devotion to duty and courage under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President

J. H. King, Jr.

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy

Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam

### **BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

J. Doug Hunter

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

### **BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Dan R. Hyatt

Signalman Third Class, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

### **CITATION:**

For heroic achievement while serving on Minesweeper USS ENDURANCE engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam. On 21 November 1970, Petty Officer HYATT was serving as bridge lookout when an enemy trawler was sighted. Throughout the engagement, he directed the ship's searchlight towards the trawler to aid the gun mounts in effectively battling the heavily armed adversary. Although his ship came under hostile fire, he continued to man his position until the enemy trawler was destroyed. His untiring efforts significantly contributed to thwarting an enemy infiltration attempt and to denying the enemy use of needed arms and ammunition. Petty Officer HYATT's exemplary professionalism, devotion to duty and courage under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the Secretary of the Navy

J. H. King, Jr.

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy

Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam

#### BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Jack A. Koning

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

#### BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Wade E. Olson

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

#### BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Theodore R. Weeks

Interior Communication Electrician First Class, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

#### CITATION:

For heroic achievement while serving on Minesweeper USS ENDURANCE engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam. On 21 November 1970, Petty Officer WEEKS was serving as a machine gunner when an enemy trawler was sighted. Reacting immediately and without regard for his own personal safety, he unleashed a devastatingly accurate barrage of fire into the trawler. Although his ship came under hostile fire, he continued to man his position until the enemy trawler was destroyed. His untiring efforts significantly contributed to thwarting an enemy infiltration attempt and to denying the enemy use of needed arms and ammunition. Petty Officer WEEKS' exemplary professionalism, devotion to duty and courage under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

For the President

J. H. King, Jr.

Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy

Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam

#### BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Lieutenant Stephen R. Woodall, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

### **OPERATION BARRIER REEF WEST**

**Mine Division 113: June 1969 – December 1970**

#### **BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Boatswain's Mate First Class Richard Lee Schreifels, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

For meritorious service while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam from June 1969 to December 1970. While serving as a boat captain with Mine Division One One Three, Petty Officer SCHREIFELS participated in over three hundred minesweeping and combat patrols and engaged the enemy on six occasions in conjunction with Operation BARRIER REEF WEST and border interdiction patrols. His boat was instrumental in protecting vital supply channels and denying their use to the enemy. His tireless efforts under austere and arduous conditions and his technical knowledge were directly responsible for the high state of readiness of his boat. Petty Officer SCHREIFELS' exemplary professionalism, untiring devotion to duty and courage under fire reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

J. H. King, Jr.

Vice Admiral, United States Navy

Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam

**CA MAU: 1972**

#### **BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Lieutenant Commander Donald DeCrona, United States Navy (EOD Community)

Awarded for actions during the Vietnam War

(Need Citation)

### **COLD WAR**

#### **WESTERN PACIFIC OCEAN**

**USS *Constant* (MSO-427): 17 December 1960**

#### **NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL**

Buddy A. Conley

Awarded for actions during the Cold War

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Seaman Buddy A. Conley, United States Navy, for heroic conduct on 17 December 1960 while serving on board U.S.S. CONSTANT (MSO-427), en route in column from Sasebo, Japan, to Kaohsiung, Taiwan. When a shipmate accidentally fell overboard from the fantail of CONSTANT into heavy seas, Seaman Conley unhesitatingly dived into the icy waters and swam to the side of the panic-stricken victim with a life ring.

Both men were quickly rescued by U.S.S. PIVOT (MSO-463), the next ship in column. Through his prompt and courageous efforts in an emergency, Seaman Conley was directly instrumental in saving the life of a shipmate.

General Orders: All Hands (July 1961)

Action Date: December 17, 1960

Service: Navy

Rank: Seaman

Division: U.S.S. Constant (MSO-427)

## **TACOMA, WASHINGTON**

### **USS *Implicit* (MSO-455): 27 March 1981 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDALS – 2**

Greg A. Ball

Awarded for actions during the Peace Time Awards

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Hull Maintenance Technician Third Class Greg A. Ball, United States Navy, for heroism while serving on board U.S.S. IMPLICIT (MSO-455) at Tacoma, Washington, on 27 March 1981. Upon arrival at the scene of a fiery, head-on automobile collision, Petty Officer Ball immediately ran to the engulfed vehicles to be of assistance to the passengers. With complete disregard for his own safety and fully aware of the personal danger involved, Petty Officer Ball and a fellow sailor unhesitatingly began extricating a total of eight young girls from the burning wreckage. One of the girls, a driver, was unconscious and trapped between the seat and steering wheel. Despite the imminent danger of a dual explosion, Petty Officer Ball and the other rescuer broke the back of the seat and pulled her through the seat belt which could not be unfastened. Carrying her to a place of safety, Petty Officer Ball then administered first aid to her and the other victims until medical assistance arrived. By his courageous and prompt actions in the face of great personal risk, Petty Officer Ball undoubtedly saved the lives of eight young girls; thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: March 27, 1981

Service: Navy

Rank: Damage Controlman Second Class

Division: U.S.S. Implicit (MSO-455)

Billy Ray Beddingfield

Awarded for actions during the Peace Time Awards

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Fireman Apprentice Billy Ray Beddingfield, United States Navy, for heroism while serving on board U.S.S. IMPLICIT (MSO-455) at Tacoma, Washington on 27 March 1981. Upon arrival at the scene of a fiery, head-on automobile collision, Fireman Apprentice Beddingfield immediately ran to the engulfed vehicles to be of assistance to the passengers. With complete disregard for his own safety and fully aware of the personal danger involved, Fireman Apprentice Beddingfield and a fellow sailor unhesitatingly began extricating a total of eight young girls from the burning wreckage. One of the girls, a driver, was unconscious and trapped between the seat and steering wheel. Despite the imminent danger of a dual explosion, Fireman Apprentice Beddingfield and the other rescuer broke the back of the seat and pulled her through the seat belt which could not be unfastened.



Carrying her to a place of safety, Fireman Apprentice Beddingfield then administered first aid to her and the other victims until medical assistance arrived. By his courageous and prompt actions in the face of great personal risk, Fireman Apprentice Beddingfield undoubtedly saved the lives of eight young girls; thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 27-Mar-81

Service: Navy

Rank: Fireman Apprentice

Division: U.S.S. Implicit (MSO-455)

## **VIRGINIA INTERCOASTAL WATERWAY**

### **Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fifteen: 13 May 1984 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL**

William Glenn Arnold

Awarded for actions during the Peace Time Awards

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Lieutenant Commander William Glenn Arnold, United States Navy, for heroism while serving at Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron FIFTEEN on 13 May 1984. Upon observing a severely injured man who had been thrown overboard from a motorboat on the Virginia inter-coastal waterway, and with the unattended boat circling at high speed to within five yards of the victim, Lieutenant Commander Arnold with complete disregard for his own safety and fully aware of the personal dangers involved dove into the water in an effort to assist the submerged man. Upon reaching him, Lieutenant Commander Arnold was able to keep him above surface until help arrived. By his courageous and prompt actions in the face of great personal risk, Lieutenant Commander Arnold undoubtedly saved the man from drowning; thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: May 13, 1984

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 15

### **Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Twelve: 19 December 1985 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL**

Jessica Lorraine Brown

Awarded for actions during the Peace Time Awards

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy and Marine Corps Medal to Aviation Ordnanceman Third Class Jessica Lorraine Brown, United States Navy, for heroism while serving with Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron TWELVE on 19 December 1985. When notified of a fire in a nearby apartment, Petty Officer Brown first attempted to arouse the occupants. Failing that, with complete disregard for her own safety, she forcibly broke down the door and entered the smoke filled apartment. Petty Officer Brown located one victim and dragged him out of the building. She again entered the apartment and located the fire in the kitchen, already engulfing a wall and the hood of the stove. Although almost overcome by smoke, she extinguished the fire and located another victim on a couch and removed him from the apartment. By her courageous

and prompt actions in the face of great personal risk, Petty Officer Brown saved two lives and considerable personal property; thereby reflecting great credit upon herself and upholding the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Action Date: 19-Dec-85

Service: Navy

Rank: Aviation Ordnanceman Third Class

Company: Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 12

**U.S. Navy: Date Unknown**  
**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL**

Donald R. Cook

Awarded for actions during the Peace Time Awards

Mineman First Class Donald R. Cook, United States Navy, was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy.

Service: Navy

Rank: Mineman First Class

(Need Citation)

**IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN WARS**

**Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fifteen: 2003**  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Commander Paul A. Lluy, United States Navy

Received award while Commanding Officer of HM-15, forward deployed in the Central Command (CENTCOM) area of operations supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

Source: *Wingspan*, April 15, 2004

(Need Citation)

**Bala Morghab in the Murghab Valley: 27 August 2008**  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Mineman Second Class Michael Taylor, United States Navy

Awarded for actions during the Afghanistan War

On 27 August 2008, Michael Taylor was on a joint US-Spanish-Afghan operation near the town of Bala Morghab in the Murghab Valley. Taylor's team was ambushed by insurgent forces who fired rocket-propelled grenades, AK-47's and light machine guns from all directions at his Humvee. He manned the turret gun during the attack. Taylor, the truck commander, and an interpreter in the vehicle, sustained injuries in the battle.

(Need Citation)

**Paktika and Khost Provinces: Date of Action Unknown**  
**BRONZE STAR MEDAL**

Master Chief Mineman Glenn Niemitalo, United States Naval Reserve

Awarded for actions during the Afghanistan War

Earned award while serving as a quality control engineer with reconstruction teams in Paktika and Khost provinces. His Provincial Reconstruction Team Khost Afghanistan unit was comprised of Army, Navy, and Air Force personnel.

Source: East Greenbush sailor earns Bronze Star Medal in Afghanistan by Terry Brown,  
*Times Union*, June 18, 2011