

## **PATROL YACHT (PY) AND YARD PATROL CRAFT (YP) HALL OF VALOR**

(YPs were former privately owned vessels, mostly yachts and fishing boats, which, following Navy acquisition and outfitting, served only during World War II)

### **Congressional Medal of Honor**



### **Spanish-American War**

Peter Johnson

George Mahoney

### **Navy Cross Medal**



#### **World War I**

E. Artimas Chastain  
Ernest Ludolph Gunther  
Louis Iverson  
Raymond L. Jack  
William V. E. Jacobs  
Walter Gordon Roper  
Harry Earl Shoemaker  
Raleigh Corwin Williams  
Maxwell Wyeth

#### **World War II**

Howard H. Branyon  
John J. Murphy, Jr.  
Gerard B. Nevle  
George K. Petritz  
Charles Henry Vaughn, Jr.

**Legion of Merit Medal**



**World War II**  
Neils P. Thomsen

**Navy and Marine Corps Medal**



**World War II**  
John R. Bruce

### **Purple Heart Medal**



### **World War II**

George K. Petritz  
Fred A. Riddell  
Joaquin S. Theodore

### **Prisoner of War Medal**



### **World War II**

Lowren Augustus Arnett  
Henry Jay Ashton  
Donald Adair Binns  
Lawrence Edward Bluma  
Arthur Benedict Dahlsted

Harold William Dutro  
Henry Fabian  
Arthur Earnest Foote  
Anthony Joseph Podries

Hiram Jefferson Prickett  
Philip Earl Saunders  
Homer Lamar Townsend  
Jack Lawrence Wash

**Presidential Unit Citation  
(No associated medal)**



USS *YP-239*  
USS *YP-284*  
USS *YP-346*

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



USS *YP-421*

3 March – 10 June 1945

**Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one or more Battle Stars**



USS <i>Isabel</i> (PY-10)	08 Dec 1941 – 07 Mar 1942
USS <i>Southern Seas</i> (PY-32)	13 Nov 1943 – 08 Dec 1943
USS <i>YP-41</i> ex-Coast Guard cutter <i>Mahoning</i>	24 Jul 1944 – 10 Aug 1944 20 May 1945 – 30 Jun 1945
USS <i>YP-42</i> ex-Coast Guard cutter <i>Gallatin</i>	24 Jul 1944 – 10 Aug 1944 04 Mar 1945 – 16 Mar 1945 20 May 1945 – 30 Jun 1945
USS <i>YP-56</i> ex-Coast Guard cutter <i>Naugatuck</i>	24 Jul 1944 – 10 Aug 1944 20 May 1945 – 30 Jun 1945
USS <i>YP-236</i> ex-San Diego tuna clipper <i>Europa</i>	15 Dec 1943 – 31 Dec 1943
USS <i>YP-251</i> ex-Seattle halibut boat <i>Foremost</i>	09 Jul 1942
USS <i>YP-284</i> ex-San Diego tuna clipper <i>Endeavor</i>	25 Oct 1942
USS <i>YP-415</i> ex-Massachusetts beam trawler <i>Swell</i>	23 Nov 1943
USS <i>YP-417</i> ex-fishing trawler <i>Calm</i>	13 Apr 1943 – 20 Jun 1943
USS <i>YP-421</i> ex-Massachusetts beam trawler <i>Surf</i>	15 Nov 1944 – 29 Nov 1944 26 Jun 1945 – 07 Jul 1945
USS <i>YP-456</i> ex- <i>Victory</i>	27 Jun 1944 – 10 Aug 1944
USS <i>YP-514</i> ex-San Diego tuna clipper <i>American Beauty</i>	23 Nov 1943

USS <i>YP-516</i>	ex-San Diego tuna clipper <i>Queen Amelia</i>	05 Apr 1943 – 16 Jun 1943
USS <i>YP-517</i>	ex-San Diego tuna clipper <i>St. Ann</i>	05 Apr 1943 – 16 Jun 1943
		03 Dec 1943 – 04 Dec 1943

**American Campaign Medal with one Battle Star**



USS *Siren* (PY-13)

01 Nov 1942 – 06 Nov 1942

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

The below citations are presented generally in chronological order, 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.

## **SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR**

### **USS *Vixen* (PY-4): 28 May 1898 CONGRESSIONAL MEDALS OF HONOR - 2**

Peter Johnson

Awarded for actions during the Spanish-American War

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Fireman First Class Peter Johnson, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action on board the U.S.S. *Vixen* on the night of 28 May 1898. Following the explosion of the lower front manhole gasket of Boiler A of the vessel, Fireman First Class Johnson displayed great coolness and self-possession in entering the fireroom.

General Orders: War Department, General Orders No. 167 (August 27, 1904)

Action Date: May 28, 1898

Service: Navy

Rank: Fireman First Class

Division: U.S.S. *Vixen*

George Mahoney

Awarded for actions during the Spanish-American War

The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pleasure in presenting the Medal of Honor to Fireman First Class George Mahoney, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism in action on board the U.S.S. *Vixen* on the night of 28 May 1898. Following the explosion of the lower front manhole gasket of Boiler A of that vessel, Fireman First Class Mahoney displayed great coolness and self-possession in entering the fireroom.

General Orders: War Department, General Orders No. 167 (August 27, 1904)

Action Date: May 28, 1898

Service: Navy

Rank: Fireman First Class

Division: U.S.S. *Vixen*

## **WORLD WAR I**

### **USS *Cythera* (SP-575/PY-26): World War I NAVY CROSS MEDALS – 2**

Walter Gordon Roper

Awarded for actions during the World War I

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Commander Walter Gordon Roper, United States Navy, for distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. *Cythera*, engaged in the important, exacting and hazardous duty of transporting and escorting troops and supplies through waters infested with enemy submarines and mines during World War I.

Action Date: World War I  
Service: Navy  
Rank: Commander  
Company: Commanding Officer  
Division: U.S.S. Cythera

Raymond L. Jack

Awarded for actions during the World War I

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Captain Raymond L. Jack, United States Coast Guard, for distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. CYTHERA, engaged in the important, exacting and hazardous duty of transporting and escorting troops and supplies through waters infested with enemy submarines and mines, during World War I.

Action Date: 1918

Service: Coast Guard

Rank: Captain

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Cythera

**USS *Emerald* (SP-177): 23 July 1917 – 12 December 1918**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Maxwell Wyeth

Awarded for actions during the World War I

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Maxwell Wyeth, United States Navy, for distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the yacht Emerald, owned by Lieutenant Wyeth and placed by him at the disposal of the Government upon the declaration of war. Under his command the Emerald was one of the most efficient boats of the Fourth Naval District, performing very strenuous work on patrol, convoy, and in mine-sweeping duty.

Action Date: World War I

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: Yacht Emerald

**USS *Isabel* (SP-521/PY-10): World War I**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDALS – 2**

Harry Earl Shoemaker

Awarded for actions during the World War I

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Harry Earl Shoemaker, United States Navy, for distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. ISABEL, engaged in the important, exacting and hazardous duty of transporting and escorting troops and supplies through waters infested with enemy submarines and mines during World War I.

Action Date: World War I

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Division: U.S.S. Isabel

Ernest Ludolph Gunther

Awarded for actions during the World War I

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Ernest Ludolph Gunther, United States Navy, for distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. ISABEL and the U.S.S. JARVIS [DD-38], engaged in the important, exacting and hazardous duty of patrolling the waters infested with enemy submarines and mines, in escorting and protecting vitally important convoys of troops, and supplies through these waters, and in offensive and defensive action, vigorously and unremittingly prosecuted against all forms of enemy naval activity during World War I.

Action Date: World War I

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Isabel and U.S.S. Jarvis

**USS *Niagara* (SP-136/PY-9): World War I**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDALS – 2**

William V. E. Jacobs

Awarded for actions during the World War I

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Captain William V. E. Jacobs, United States Coast Guard, for distinguished service in the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. NIAGARA, engaged in the important, exacting and hazardous duty of transporting and escorting troops and supplies through waters infested with enemy submarines and mines, during World War I.

Action Date: 1918

Service: Coast Guard

Rank: Captain

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Niagara

Louis Iverson

Awarded for actions during the World War I

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant (MC) Louis Iverson, United States Navy, for distinguished and courageous service in volunteering to go in a boat from the U.S.S. Niagara to the assistance of the British troopship City of Vienna, ashore on Black Rock, on 2 July 1918.

Action Date: 2-Jul-18

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant

Division: U.S.S. Niagara

**USS *Nokomis* (SP-609/PY-6): World War I**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDALS – 2**

Raleigh Corwin Williams

Awarded for actions during the World War I

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Lieutenant Commander Raleigh Corwin Williams, United States Navy, for distinguished services in

the line of his profession as Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. NOKOMIS, engaged in the important, exacting and hazardous duty of transporting and escorting troops and supplies through waters infested with enemy submarines and mines during World War I.

Action Date: World War I

Service: Navy

Rank: Lieutenant Commander

Company: Commanding Officer

Division: U.S.S. Nokomis

E. Artimas Chastain

Awarded for actions during the World War I

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Chief Carpenter's Mate E. Artimas Chastain, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty while serving on the U.S.S. Nokomis. On the night of 11 January 1918, while that vessel was at sea a wave broke over the stern, smashing the depth bomb launching device. The bomb was hurled on board and the bomb float which was detached started forward in the wash water. Chief Carpenter's Mate Chastain threw himself down on the float holding it and remaining buried in water until assistance reached him, when the bomb was secured, this preventing the bomb from firing and detonating the other bombs.

Action Date: 11-Nov-18

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Carpenter's Mate

Division: U.S.S. Nokomis

## **WORLD WAR II**

### **LOSS OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**USS *YP-97*: 7 December 1941 – 28 April 1942**

### **NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

George K. Petritz

Awarded for actions during World War II

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to George K. Petritz, Ensign, U.S. Navy (Reserve), for extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in action against the enemy while serving at Fisheries TWO in the Philippine Islands, from 7 December 1941 to 28 April 1942. His conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy of the United States.

[Petritz had been commanding officer of the *YP-97*, which was captured by the Japanese on or around 6 May 1942, incident to the fall of the Philippines. The award citation refers to the yacht *Fisheries II*, commanded by Chief Boatswain Charles Oster, United States Navy, prior to the bombardment of Cavite Navy Yard on 10 December 1941. Oster thereafter served as Commander, Cavite Navy Yard, until captured by the Japanese, and he later died, or was killed, while a prisoner of war. He was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously.]

## LOSS OF GUAM

### USS *YP-16* and USS *YP-17*: 8-9 December 1941 PRISONER OF WAR MEDALS – 13

The below USS *YP-16* crewmembers were captured by the Japanese when their patrol craft was seized during the invasion of Guam on 8-9 December 1941, and were held as Prisoners of War until returned to U.S. Military control after the end of hostilities in August 1945.

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

Action Date: December 9, 1941 - August 1945

Service: Navy

Division: Prisoner of War (Japan)

- Boatswain's Mate Second Class Henry Jay Ashton, United States Navy
- Coxswain Donald Adair Binns, United States Navy
- Machinist's Mate Third Class Arthur Benedict Dahlsted, United States Navy
- Machinist's Mate Second Class Henry Fabian, United States Navy
- Chief Boatswain's Mate Philip Earl Saunders, United States Navy
- Seaman First Class Jack Lawrence Wash, United States Navy

The below USS *YP-17* crewmembers were captured by the Japanese when their patrol craft was seized during the invasion of Guam on 8-9 December 1941, and were held as Prisoners of War until returned to U.S. Military control after the end of hostilities in August 1945.

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

Action Date: December 9, 1941 - August 1945

Service: Navy

Rank: Seaman First Class

Division: Prisoner of War (Japan)

- Seaman First Class Lowren Augustus Arnett, United States Navy
- Boatswain's Mate Second Class Lawrence Edward Bluma, United States Navy
- Fireman First Class Harold William Dutro, United States Navy
- Machinist's Mate First Class Arthur Earnest Foote, United States Navy
- Chief Boatswain's Mate Homer Lamar Townsend, United States Navy
- Machinist's Mate First Class Anthony Joseph Podries, United States Navy
- Quartermaster First Class Hiram Jefferson Prickett, United States Navy

## FRENCH FRIGATE SHOALS, TERRITORY OF HAWAII

### USS *YP-237*: 23 May 1942 NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL

John R. Bruce

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 Boatswain's Mate First Class John R. Bruce, United States Navy, for heroic conduct and outstanding devotion to duty at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy, as the Commanding Officer of a patrol vessel in effecting the rescue of two men from a burning ship.

In spite of the danger from exploding gasoline drums, ammunition and depth charges, Boatswain's Mate First Class Bruce approached to within 75 feet of another vessel, burning and drifting in the direction of a mine field. After lowering a boat, he entered the area which was close to or in the mine field and succeeded in rescuing two men and recovering one body.

General Orders: Bureau of Naval Personnel Information Bulletin AT. 309 (December 1942)

Action Date: 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Boatswain's Mate First Class

## **ALASKAN WATERS**

### **USS *YP-251*: 9 July 1942 LEGION OF MERIT MEDAL**

Neils P. Thomsen

Awarded for actions during World War II

For exceptionally meritorious conduct as commanding officer of the YP-251 during action against a hostile submarine in North Pacific water, July 9, 1942. Although an air driven torpedo passed 28 yards astern of his craft during the engagement, Lieut. Thomsen relentlessly pursued his target until spreading oil slicks and continuous air bubbles gave evidence of the probable destruction of the enemy vessel.

## **SUPPORT OF THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION AT GUADALCANAL, SOLOMON ISLANDS**

### **First Marine Division (and supporting units including YPs 239, 284, and 346): 7 August – 9 December 1942**

#### **PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION**

First Marine Division was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation on 4 February 1943: Cited in the Name of the President of the United States

THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION (REINFORCED)

Under command of Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift, USMC

CITATION:

The officers and enlisted men of the First Marine Division, Reinforced, on August 7 to 9, 1942, demonstrated outstanding gallantry and determination in successfully executing forced landing assaults against a number of strongly defended Japanese positions on Tulagi, Gavutu, Tanambogo, Florida and Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands, completely routing all enemy forces and seizing a most valuable base and airfield within the enemy zone of operations in the South Pacific Ocean.

From the above period until 9 December 1942, this Reinforced Division not only held their important strategic positions despite determined and repeated Japanese naval, air and land attacks, but in a series of offensive operations against strong enemy resistance drove the Japanese from the proximity of the airfield and inflicted great losses on them by land and air attacks.

The courage and determination displayed in these operations were of an inspiring order.

Frank Knox

Secretary of the Navy

**USS ~~YP-239~~: 1 September – 2 November 1942**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDAL**

Howard H. Branyon

Awarded for actions during the World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Chief Boatswain Howard H. Branyon, United States Navy, for extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty in action against the enemy while serving Commander of Patrol Ship YP-239, in the waters between Tulagi and Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, during the period from 1 September 1942 to 2 November 1942. Chief Boatswain Branyon was in command of a small auxiliary naval craft used in transporting essential men and supplies. His craft averaged at least one trip a day, many of the trips having been made under heavy enemy fire, and at night, under the most trying circumstances. In spite of the obstacles and great danger present, Chief Boatswain Branyon carried out his missions with extreme courage and skill, setting an example to his command. His unflinching leadership resulted in an uninterrupted flow of reinforcements and supplies without which the ground troops would have been greatly hampered. The conduct of Chief Boatswain Branyon 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. 317 (August 1943) & 326 (May 1944)

Action Date: September 1 - November 2, 1942

Service: Navy

Rank: Chief Boatswain

Company: Commander

Division: Patrol Ship YP-239

**USS ~~YP-346~~: 9 September 1942**  
**NAVY CROSS MEDALS – 3**

John J. Murphy, Jr.

Awarded for actions during the World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Private First Class John J. Murphy, Jr. (MCSN: 328014), United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism and conspicuous devotion to duty while serving as a member of a Rifle Company of the Second Marines (Reinforced), SECOND Marine Division, aboard the YP-346 during action against enemy Japanese forces off the coast of Tulagi, Solomon Islands, on the night of 9 September 1942. With his ship illuminated by the enemy and hostile gunfire causing violent explosion of shells inside the magazine directly beneath his battle station, Private First Class Murphy voluntarily remained on board, despite devastating Japanese shellfire, to assist in repairing damage to the engine room until that compartment also became untenable. Although wounded by a shell fragment shortly afterward, he gallantly disregarded his own condition to help evacuate other injured shipmates to a dressing station ashore, following the beaching of the vessel. His conspicuous courage in a situation of grave peril was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: SPOT AWARD (1943): Serial 057 (SofN Signed April 23, 1943)

Action Date: 9-Sep-42

Service: Marine Corps

Rank: Private First Class

Regiment: 2d Marines (Rein.)

Division: 2d Marine Division aboard YP-346

Gerard B. Nevle

Awarded for actions during the World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Private First Class Gerard B. Nevle (MCSN: 335029), United States Marine Corps (Reserve), for extraordinary heroism and conspicuous devotion to duty while serving as a member of a Rifle Company of the Second Marines (Reinforced), SECOND Marine Division, aboard the YP-346, during action against enemy Japanese forces off the coast of Tulagi, Solomon Islands, on the night of 9 September 1942. With his ship illuminated by the enemy and hostile gunfire causing violent explosion of shells inside the magazine directly beneath his battle station, Private First Class Nevle voluntarily remained on board despite devastating enemy shellfire, manned the practically demolished bridge and set the vessel on a beaching course. Later, he gain risked his life to administer first aid to his wounded shipmates, assisting in their evacuation to protected areas. His conspicuous gallantry and courage in a situation of grave peril were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

General Orders: SPOT AWARD: Serial 057 (SofN Signed April 23, 1943)

Action Date: 9-Sep-42

Service: Marine Corps Reserve

Rank: Private First Class

Regiment: 2d Marines (Rein.)

Charles Henry Vaughn, Jr.

Awarded for actions during the World War II

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Chief Machinist's Mate Charles Henry Vaughn, Jr. (NSN: 3808329), United States Naval Reserve, for extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty while serving aboard the YP-346, in action on 9 September 1942, when that vessel was attacked by enemy surface craft off the coast of Tulagi in the Solomon Islands. During the attack Chief Machinist's Mate Vaughn was on duty in the engine room as Chief Engineer of that vessel and she received a hit in the engine room. He went on deck to report to the bridge and upon his arrival there learned that the bridge was shot away and was informed that the Commanding Officer had been killed. He summarized the situation and remarked that the only thing to do was to beach the vessel. As he made this remark, Private First Class Gerard B. Nevle, USMC, immediately went to the remains of the bridge upon his own initiative and assumed charge of the wheel, bringing the ship under control and steered a course for the beach. Private First Class Nevle left the bridge and went below to minister the injuries of the sounded Gunner's Mate. The ship again lost its course; Private First Class Nevle returned to the bridge and although the wheel contained only three broken spokes he brought the ship back under control and steered her onto the beach. He then swam ashore with the injured sailor, left the sailor on the beach and swam back to the ship and assisted in removing the remainder of the personnel of the ship. During the time of the above attack, Private First Class John J. Murphy, USMC, went to the engine room of the Y-346 and although the regular members of the crew had left the engine room after the hit received therein, Private First Class Murphy worked with Chief Machinist's Mate Vaughn, assisting invaluablely in securing the ammonia system and assisting him as directed. The above important factors were reported because it was felt by Chief Machinist's Mate Vaughn that the action of these two Marines in taking over duties of the sailors during this attack, made possible the beaching of the YP-346 and the saving of the lives of the majority of the crew thereon. Their action was entirely upon their own initiative and at great risk of their own lives. The Commanding Officer

of the YP-346 was evacuated from the area as a casualty. Chief Machinist's Mate Vaughn's conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the Navy of the United States.

General Orders: Commander South Pacific Force & Area: Serial 051 (January 12, 1943)

Action Date: 9-Sep-42

Service: Naval Reserve

Rank: Chief Machinist's Mate

Division: YP-346

**USS *YP-416*: 14 August 1943  
PURPLE HEART MEDAL**

Citation:

In the name of the President and by direction of the Secretary of the Navy the Purple Heart is awarded by the Commander Service Squadron, South Pacific Force, to:

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER FRED A. RIDDELL, USC&GS

for wounds received in action August 14, 1943, on board the YP-416.

Oscar C. Badger

**SHIP SALVAGE, FIRE-FIGHTING AND RESCUE UNIT,  
SERVICE FORCE, SEVENTH FLEET**

**USS *YP-421*: 3 March – 10 June 1945  
NAVY UNIT COMMENDATION**

Citation:

For distinguished and extremely meritorious service in support of military operations throughout the Philippine campaign. Accompanying the preliminary bombardment groups and working under continuous enemy attack throughout the assault phase of nine major landings, the Ship Salvage Fire-Fighting and Rescue Unit, Service Force, Seventh Fleet, fought and extinguished 10 major fires, completed emergency battle damage repairs on 69 vessels including combat fleet units, refloated and salvaged 146 badly damaged ships, towed 13 major vessels to safety, and recovered one sunken submarine under heavy mortar fire. In 3 months, the Unit completed the emergency clearing of Manila Harbor, opening the port fully to Allied use. During the operation, over 350 vessels of all sizes were raised, removed or disposed of along with large quantities of enemy underwater ordnance. The teamwork, professional skill and unselfish devotion to duty of the entire Unit resulted in accomplishment beyond the highest expectations and contributed immeasurably to the successful liberation of the Philippine Islands.