

015643  
DGP-298-cag

Cincpac  
Appd SofN 2-28-46  
Serial 53296  
Signed MAR 28 1947

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

FIRST LIEUTENANT EDWARD VAGOUN,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of Company A, First Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, 14 May 1945. Subjected to intense enemy fire which halted the forward displacement and wounded the company commander during the execution of a passage of lines, First Lieutenant Vagoun immediately assumed command. Refusing to be evacuated despite a painful wound sustained a few minutes later, he skillfully reorganized his company and, with a minimum loss of time, moved it into a position from which the passage of lines could be effected, personally reconnoitering the forward area infested by Japanese snipers and heavy mortar fire in an attempt to locate the enemy positions. His bravery, cool determination and loyalty served as an inspiration to the men of his command and reflect the highest credit upon First Lieutenant Vagoun and the United States Naval Service."

For the President

JAMES FORRESTAL

Secretary of the Navy.

R..Garfield, New York.

B..Garfield, New York.

SSM w/perm. cit. & CMC ltr. was pres'd to Mrs. Ed. Vagoun, widow of the late 1st Lt. Vagoun on 23May47 by Oinc USMC DHRS, Newark, N.J. by reg. mail.



339602

HEADQUARTERS USAFISPA  
APO # 502

24 November 1943.

GENERAL ORDERS )  
NO. . . . .434 )

Awards of the Silver Star . . . . . Section  
I

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I. AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR:

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull. 43, WD, 1918), a Silver Star is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to the following-named enlisted men:

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<sup>E.</sup>  
WILLIAM S. VAN DYKE, (339602), Private First Class, United States Marine Corps Reserve, for gallantry in action at New Georgia, Solomon Islands, in taking charge of and directing the operation of the two machine guns in his section for the balance of an engagement when his section sergeant and squad leaders were wounded on 20 July 1943. Home address: 604 - 145th Street, East Chicago, Indiana.

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By Command of Lieutenant General HARMON:

A. J. BARNETT,  
Brigadier General, GSC,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

M. B. KENDRICK,  
Major, A. G. D.,  
Asst. Adj. Gen.

R-- East Chicago, Indiana  
B-- Gary, Indiana 12-7-20

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL



(COBA)

HEADQUARTERS ARMY SERVICE FORCES

*over file*

319703  
DGP-298-egc

ComSoPac  
Serial 00772  
Spot Award  
Signed

DEC 28 1944

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

SERGEANT GEORGE J. VAL, USMC.,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as member of a Rifle Company serving with the Third Battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces at Piva Forks, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, on November 24, 1943. When all the officers and many of the men of his company were killed or wounded during an assault on a strongly fortified enemy position, Sergeant Val unhesitatingly assumed command of his platoon and, in the face of devastating hostile machine-gun, grenade and rifle fire, boldly led it in an aggressive attack which resulted in the capture of the Japanese stronghold. A courageous leader and intrepid fighter, he personally destroyed ten of the Japanese during the perilous advance, directly contributing to the defeat of the enemy in that sector. Sergeant Val's daring initiative and zealous devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

For the President,

JAMES FORRESTAL  
Secretary of the Navy.

R--Woodside, Queens, N.Y.  
B--Flushing, N.Y.

460 599  
DGP-298-lfg

CincPac  
Appd SofN 1-18-45  
Serial 12626  
Signed JUL 30 1945

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FRANK VALLEE, JR., USMCR.,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with the First Battalion, Twenty-Fourth Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on the Islands of Saipan and Tinian, in the Marianas Group, from 15 June to 24 July 1944. Leading his platoon in clearing operations on 12 July, Private First Class Vallee discovered a large pocket of by-passed Japanese troops and, expertly firing his rifle from the hip as he led his men in a bold charge, engaged the enemy in fierce combat and succeeded in annihilating approximately fifty Japanese soldiers. An indomitable fighter, Private First Class Vallee participated with determined aggressiveness in the bitter assault operations against both Saipan and Tinian and, by his intrepid initiative, great personal valor and cool conduct in the face of savage, unceasing opposition, contributed materially to the ultimate conquest of these vital enemy strongholds. His unwavering devotion to duty throughout reflects the highest credit upon Private First Class Vallee and upon the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

/s/ Artemus L. Gates

Secretary of the Navy.  
Acting

R..Springfield, Mass.

B..Oakville, Conn.

SSM, perm cit, ltr fr CMC pres by CO, Boston, Mass., 10-5-45  
to the father of the late PFC Vallee, Mr. Vallee. Form pres.

359165

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSEPH A. VAN BELLE, USMC,  
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as gunner in a scout plane, attached to Marine Aircraft Group FOURTEEN, on patrol over New Georgia Channel, October 8, 1942. Though wounded four times while under a devastating attack by an overwhelming force of enemy fighter planes and intense anti-aircraft fire, Private First Class Van Belle maintained constant and effective fire against the superior opposition and succeeded in setting afire at least one Japanese fighter plane. Largely as a result of his heroism and fortitude under fire, the life of the pilot and the plane were saved."

For the President,

/s/ Frank Knox  
Secretary of the Navy.

Copy

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GEORGE R. VAN CONKELBERGE,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a Machine Gun Squad Leader of Company B, First Battalion, Twenty-seventh Marines, Fifth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 28 February 1945. With his squad ordered to aid another platoon pinned down at the base of a hill by hostile automatic fire that swept and dominated the area during his company's assault on this vital strong point, Private First Class Van Conkelberge courageously moved fifty yards forward with his platoon to a position where his unit was pinned down with the result that no movement could be made forward and effective fire could not be brought to bear upon the enemy. Despite great danger, he voluntarily worked his way slowly forward approximately fifty yards through intense enemy rifle and automatic fire to a position from which he could observe the two caves from which the enemy's fire was directed and, boldly returning to his squad, stealthily moved his machine gun forward to this same spot. Firing point plank into one of the caves, Private First Class Van Conkelberge succeeded in silencing the hostile weapon before heavy Japanese rifle fire wounded him. By his cool and heroic actions, he aided greatly in enabling his company to continue its attack. His indomitable fighting spirit and determination were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R..Taft, Calif.

B..Long Beach, Calif.

499266  
DGP-298-rlb

*Our book*

Cincpac  
Appd SofN 3-4-46  
Serial 034552  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

CORPORAL LOUIS T. VAN DE WALLE,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with a Rifle Platoon in Company C, First Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima, Ryukyu Islands, 9 May 1945. In charge of ammunition supplies for his platoon, Corporal Van De Walle rendered valiant service as his comrades fought relentlessly against the enemy's continuous counterattacks the night of 9 May. When the supply situation became increasingly more critical under the stress of prolonged battle action, he took it upon himself to traverse the front lines despite constant small-arms and grenade fire, delivering urgently needed ammunition to troops deployed over approximately two hundred yards of difficult terrain and, undeterred by the additional danger of attack by infiltrating Japanese, tenaciously persevered in his determined efforts as the bitter conflict raged throughout the grim night hours, completing seven of these self-imposed missions before dawn. Loyal and stouthearted in the face of extreme danger, Corporal Van De Walle had enabled his platoon to repulse the enemy's desperate attempts to over-run the gallantly defended position and his intrepid conduct throughout upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,  
JAMES FORRESTAL  
Secretary of the Navy.

R.--Kewanee, Illinois  
B.--Kewanee, Illinois

499266  
DGP-298-rlb

*Over book*

Cincpac  
Appd SofN 3-4-46  
Serial 034552  
Signed JUN 14 1946

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the GOLD STAR in lieu of a second SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

CORPORAL LOUIS T. VAN DE WALLE,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Acting Squad Leader of a Rifle Platoon, serving with Company C, First Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima, Ryukyu Islands, 29 May 1945. Directed to locate and destroy a concealed hostile machine gun which had struck down several of his company, Corporal Van De Walle coolly and courageously rendered himself a clear target for the Japanese weapon, thereby drawing hostile fire and tricking the enemy into revealing the hidden gun position. Although severely wounded as a result of this daring maneuver, Corporal Van De Walle, by his dauntless spirit of self-sacrifice, cool decision and unwavering devotion to duty under critical conditions, had enabled his men to locate and wipe out the Japanese strong point, thereby making it possible to evacuate his stricken comrades without further casualties. His indomitable courage in the face of great personal danger sustained and enhanced the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

For the President,  
JAMES FORRESTAL  
Secretary of the Navy.

R.--Kewanee, Illinois  
B.--Kewanee, Illinois

325291  
DGP-298-Navy-RDA

FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 6068  
Signed JAN 30 1948

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CONRAD L. VAN DIEMEN,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a Member of a Patrol of Company L, Third Battalion, Eighth Marines, Second Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Saipan, Marianas Islands, 22 June 1944. Assigned the mission of attacking an enemy strongpoint, Private First Class Van Diemen led the assault and destroyed five of the enemy, thereby contributing directly to the annihilation of the strongpoint. Killing six more Japanese in a later engagement, he continued to render valiant service throughout the operation. His courage and devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon Private First Class Van Diemen and the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R..So. Sioux City, Neb.,

B..Spokane, Washington.

282830  
DGP-298-vml

SPECIAL  
Appd SofN 8-20-46  
Signed APR 16 1947

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RAY E. VAN HORN,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against enemy Japanese forces while serving at the Marine Barracks, United States Naval Station, Guam, Marianas Islands, 10 December 1941. In order to prevent our explosives and ammunition magazines from falling into Japanese hands, Private First Class Van Horn volunteered as a member of a three-man demolition party and, in a light truck loaded with hundreds of pounds of dynamite, drove at high speed over rough roads to effect the destruction of a magazine located more than a mile away from our own troops. In constant danger from strafing and bombing attacks by low-flying enemy patrol planes, he coolly carried out his assignment, setting the demolition charges and destroying all ammunition and explosives in the magazine. His initiative, courage and devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon Private First Class Van Horn and the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JAMES FORRESTAL

Secretary of the Navy.

R..Kansas City, Mo.

B..Woodville, Okla.

SSM was presented informally to Master Raymond E. Van Horn, son, on 17 June 1947.

373871  
DGP-298-Navy-RDA

FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 48443  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

JAN 26 1948

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The President of the United States takes pleasure  
in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

SERGEANT LLOYD VAN NESS,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with Company K, Third Battalion, Twenty-first Marines, Third Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 6 March 1945. After his Platoon Leader had been wounded and the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer killed, Sergeant Van Ness took command of the platoon and, reorganizing his men, continued the attack over rocky terrain. Moving up and down the lines through heavy small-arms and mortar fire, he selected better positions for his guns and located enemy targets and, when one of his gun crews was subjected to intense hostile fire from a pillbox and all members became casualties, manned the gun himself, moving forward to a position from which he destroyed the enemy occupying the pillbox. By aiding his platoon in the destruction of three enemy machine guns and twenty Japanese he contributed directly to the success of the company's advance. His courage and devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon Sergeant Van Ness and the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

R--Long Beach, Calif.,  
B--Mullen, Texas.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

819589  
DGP-298-Navy-RDA

FMF  
SPOT  
Serial 61804  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure  
in presenting the SILVER SEAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS HENRY T. VAN OVERBEKE,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving in a Rifle Platoon of Company K, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, 17 May 1945. Assigned the mission of assaulting a steep cliff defended by the enemy in well entrenched and fortified positions, Private First Class Van Overbeke courageously led his men up the escarpment in the face of devastating hand-grenade, mortar and machine-gun fire, sustaining multiple wounds from shell fragment and machine-gun fire during the ascent. Refusing to be evacuated despite his painful wounds, he continued to maneuver his troops forward into positions from which effective grenade and rifle fire could be delivered on the enemy. Ordered to withdraw when it became apparent that the position would be untenable for his small group, he ably supervised the withdrawal of his men to a predetermined location and, due to loss of blood, was forced to submit to evacuation. By his initiative, fortitude and aggressive spirit, Private First Class Van Overbeke upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

R--Shelton, Washington.  
B--Shelton, Washington.

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN  
Secretary of the Navy.

VAN RAY, Clarence E., 1st.Lt. 06495

(Army) Silver Star <sup>APR 27 1942</sup> Awarded by dispatch Service at Ph.Is. Filed on case 1740-55-65 ✓

Previous awards - None

Born - 9-10-16 Jamestown, North Dakota.

Appointed from North Dakota 7-2-40. (Formerly in USA Res.)

Next of kin: Mother - Mrs. Abbie I. Van Ray

(b) (6)

Legal Residence- Fargo, North Dakota.

482673  
DGP-298-he

App. SofN 3-24-44  
Serial 917  
Signed JUN 23 1944

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

PRIVATE EDWIN H. VANCIL, USMC.,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as member of the Second Tank Battalion Reconnaissance Party attached to the Second Tank Battalion, Second Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, November 20, 1943. Defying constant danger from enemy machine-gun and mortar fire while assisting his unit in laying a 1200-yard lane of channel markers over a shell and bomb-pocked coral reef, Private Vancil valiantly made of himself a human marker in order to signal assault tanks to a successful landing on the beach-head when the floats were carried away by the heavy surf. Then, in the face of almost certain death, he voluntarily pressed forward and conducted a reconnaissance within enemy lines, pointing out targets which could not have been detected from within the tanks and continuing his courageous efforts until he was killed by hostile fire. Private Vancil's relentless fighting spirit, daring aggressiveness and heroic self-sacrifice directly contributed to the success of our forces in that area and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

For the President,

JAMES FORRESTAL

Secretary of the Navy.

R-Yelm, Washington

B-Yelm, Washington

05213  
DGP-298-Navy-ELPK

F  
FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 42257  
Signed-----

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER A. VANDEGRIFT, JR.,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Commanding Officer of the Third Battalion, Twenty-fourth Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, from 19 to 24 February 1945. When his Battalion was halted by heavy hostile mortar and small-arms fire during the Regiment's attack against the enemy's main line of defense, Lieutenant Colonel Vandegrift unhesitatingly moved into the front lines and braved the intense fire to shout words of encouragement to his men. Later, he skillfully maneuvered his reserve company into a dangerous gap which had developed on the right flank, and thus prevented Japanese infiltration of our lines at a critical time. While he was directing the attack of his Battalion, he was painfully wounded and evacuated. By his able leadership, fortitude and aggressive fighting spirit, Lieutenant Colonel Vandegrift upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

R--Lynchburg, Va. For the President,  
B--Portsmouth, New Hampshire

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

HEADQUARTERS USAFISPA  
APO #502

404505

13 November 1943.

GENERAL ORDERS †

NO. . . . .392 )

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Awards of the Silver Star.....II  
Section

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II. AWARDS OF THE SILVER STAR:

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull. 43, WD, 1918), a Silver Star is awarded by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, to the following-named officers and enlisted men.

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LLOYD J. VANNATTER, (444505), Private, United States Marine Corps Reserve, for gallantry in action at New Georgia, Solomon Islands, in crawling forward into the face of heavy hostile machine-gun fire to within twenty-five yards of the enemy position to evacuate a severely wounded marine on 20 July 1943. Home Address: 609 Leith Street, Flint, Michigan.

By Command of Lieutenant General HARMON:

A. J. BARNETT,  
Brigadier General, G.S.C.,  
Chief of Staff.

OFFICIAL:

M. B. KENDRICK,  
Major, A.G.D.,  
Asst. Adj. Gen.

R - Flint, Michigan

B - Gladwin, Michigan

019616-2  
DGP-298-mvm

FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 56880  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

FIRST LIEUTENANT ROY L. VANTINE,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as a Platoon Leader of Company C, First Battalion, Twenty-first Marines, Third Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 28 February 1945. Assigned the left half of the company sector during an advance against well-entrenched hostile troops defending a strategic hill, First Lieutenant Vantine courageously led his men in the attack against intense enemy mortar and machine-gun fire. Although adjacent units were stopped, he advanced 1000 yards in an attempt to seize the hill. Twice repulsed, First Lieutenant Vantine organized a third assault which resulted in the securing of the hill and the capture of three light and two heavy machine guns. By his skilled tactics and efficient leadership, he contributed materially to the unopposed advance of the adjacent units, and his outstanding devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R--Quanah, Texas.  
B--Quanah, Texas.

335700  
DGP-298-Navy-RDA

FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 6068  
Signed JAN 30 1948

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

SERGEANT JOE E. VARGAS,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with Company A, First Battalion, Eighteenth Marines (Engineer), Second Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Saipan, Marianas Islands, 3 July 1944. Under heavy enemy fire, Sergeant Vargas brought the assault engineers up to a cave and moved in flame throwers to lead the attack and, when one flame-thrower operator was severely wounded, moved forward to the wounded man and carried him to the rear for first aid. Returning to the cave, he used demolitions and grenades to dispose of this enemy position and two others. His courage and devotion to duty reflect the highest credit upon Sergeant Vargas and the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R..Newman, Calif.,

B..Willows, Calif.

385361  
DGP-298-Navy-RDA

FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 98302  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

CORPORAL CHARLES VARGO,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a Platoon Guide of Company G, Third Battalion, Twenty-ninth Marines, Sixth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, 16 April 1945. Although wounded while moving up a steep, strongly fortified hostile ridge with his platoon, Corporal Vargo continued to direct the advance of his men for a distance of fifty yards until wounded again. Then, in an effort to bring accurate fire on the enemy, he knelt in an exposed spot almost on top of a hostile gun position and fired over the heads of his men, inflicting many casualties on the enemy and enabling the entire line to advance. When his well-aimed fire was masked by the advance of his own men, Corporal Vargo again moved forward to his position as platoon guide on the line and directed the fire of his platoon until the hill was secured. His indomitable fighting spirit and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R..Carteret, N.J.,

B..Carteret, N.J.

408356  
DGP-298-mvm

F

FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 44534  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

SERGEANT RUDOLPH J. VAROGA,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as an Acting Platoon Leader of Company C, First Battalion, Twenty-third Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 26 February 1945. When his Platoon Leader and Platoon Sergeant were wounded in an attack on a heavily fortified enemy-held hill, Sergeant Varoga assumed command of the platoon and, despite heavy hostile fire, organized his men for a continuation of the attack and led them in an advance of several hundred yards. Although painfully wounded, he refused to be evacuated and, observing to his front a strong force of Japanese troops forming for a counterattack, quickly deployed his men to meet it. When the ammunition supply was running low, Sergeant Varoga moved from man to man and personally directed the fire of the machine guns and automatic rifles in order to gain the maximum effectiveness from their fire. By his quick thinking and coolness under fire, Sergeant Varoga was largely responsible for the repulse of the hostile counterattack with heavy loss to the enemy, and his conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R--Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.  
B--Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

06554

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

CAPTAIN WILLIAM S. VASCONCELLOS, U.S.M.C.R.,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while a member of the First Battalion, Second Marines, Reinforced, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, for the period from November 1 to 12, 1942. On two occasions, Captain Vasconcellos, with utter disregard for his own personal safety in the face of heavy machine gun, sniper and mortar fire, led his company in attacks against heavy opposition. On November 3, during an assault on hostile positions, he constantly exposed himself to great danger in order to retain control of his company and organize his defense after he had captured his objective. His great courage in personally directing this operation and sustaining the morale of his company, despite a high percentage of casualties, reflects great credit upon his ability as a leader and upon the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

/s/ Frank Knox  
Secretary of the Navy.

Copy

344797  
DGP-298-egc

CincPac  
Appd SofN 1-11-45  
Serial 004332  
Signed MAR 22 1945

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS STRATIS C. VASILAKOS, USMCR.,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as a Group Leader serving with the First Battalion, First Marines, First Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Peleliu, Palau Islands, 20 September 1944. When a concealed heavy enemy machine gun inflicted several casualties and seriously delayed an attack by our forces on a steep, coral ridge, Private First Class Vasilakos unhesitatingly moved forward in the face of intense hostile fire, sought out the Japanese weapon and engaged it with the fire of his group, subsequently proceeding alone to within grenade range of the enemy position and effectively silencing it with hand grenades and rifle fire before he was mortally wounded. Private First Class Vasilakos' splendid initiative and indomitable fighting spirit enabled his squad to penetrate deep into hostile defenses and inflict heavy casualties on the enemy, and his self-sacrificing devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

SSM, perm.cit. & ltr.fr. CMC pres'd 5/24/45 at Bond Rally by Greek American Legion Post to For the President, parents of the late PFC Vasilakos, Mr.&Mrs. Peter Vasilakos, (b) (6) (b) (6), N.Y. with appropriate ceremony. JAMES FORREST

Secretary of the Navy.

R--New Hyde Park, New York  
B--New York, New York

The President of the United States takes pride  
in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

PRIVATE DONALD E. VASQUEZ,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as a Stretcher Bearer, serving with Headquarters and Service Company, First Engineer Battalion, First Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces at Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, on 11 May 1945. After completing his duties as stretcher bearer, Private Vasquez seized a machine gun and voluntarily attached himself to a rifle platoon which was conducting an attack against a strongly fortified enemy position entrenched in a draw. With the forward squad pinned down by heavy sniper fire, he fearlessly exposed himself to draw the enemy's fire and enable the squad to resume its advance. When the platoon received orders to contact the flanking company and the remainder of the squad became pinned down under the ceaseless barrage, he courageously charged forward against the devastating shellfire, firing his weapon and throwing hand grenades as he advanced to make contact with the adjacent company before returning to his unit to resume his regular duties. Continuing his selfless efforts, Private Vasquez sustained serious wounds when he attempted to evacuate a casualty from an exposed forward position later in the furious action. His daring initiative, valiant fighting spirit and great personal valor in the face of grave danger were essential factors in the success of this bitterly fought engagement and reflect the highest credit upon Private Vasquez and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

For the President  
JAMES FORRESTAL

Secretary of the Navy

R--San Francisco, Calif.  
B--San Francisco, Calif.

841687  
DGP-298-db

FMF Pac  
SPOT  
Serial 00421  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EDWARD L. VATTER,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as an Ambulance Driver of the First Medical Battalion, First Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault on Peleliu, Palau Islands, from 17 September to 10 October 1944. Working under heavy hostile mortar and artillery fire and often on the job for periods of eighteen and twenty hours without relief, Private First Class Vatter drove to the front lines and to first-aid stations evacuating wounded to the rear area and, although his vehicle was struck four times by enemy fire, successfully completed all missions. Severely wounded on 10 October, while engaged in evacuating patients from the front lines of an assault battalion, he disregarded the pain and shock and succeeded in returning his loaded ambulance to an area of safety. By his outstanding courage, initiative and devotion to duty, he served as an inspiration to all who saw him, and his conduct throughout was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R..Beaumont, Texas

B..Beaumont, Texas

341056  
DGP-298-aft

7  
Spot Award.  
Serial 0478  
Signed        17 1943

The President of the United States takes pleasure  
in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE EDWARD E. VAUGHT, USMC.,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

*Released*

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity  
in action while serving with the Second Marine  
Raider Battalion during operations against enemy  
Japanese forces on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands,  
on November 30, 1942. When his patrol squad  
made a surprise assault against a strong enemy  
base, Private Vaught, with quick initiative and  
high courage, boldly rushed into the group, ten  
times the strength of his squad, and with his  
automatic weapon blazing, attacked the Japanese  
forces, contributing in a large measure to their  
swift destruction. His grim determination and  
indomitable fighting spirit were in keeping with  
the highest traditions of the United States Naval  
Service."

For the President,

FRANK KNOX

Secretary of the Navy.

R- Pampa, Texas  
B- Caddo Gap, Arkansas

026155  
DGP-298-ebg

F  
FMFPac Spot Ser. 85999  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM C. VELLEMAN,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as a Mortar Platoon Leader of Company I, Third Battalion, Twenty-ninth Marines, Sixth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, 16 May 1945. Ordered to provide covering fire for the movement of his company to a stronger defensive position and for the evacuation of many casualties, First Lieutenant Vellman placed his mortars in action and then moved forward under heavy hostile fire with two machine guns, their crews and ten riflemen to a position one hundred and fifty yards in front of our lines in order to provide the most effective fire possible. When an enemy mortar shell burst near him and its concussion paralyzed both legs, First Lieutenant Vellman refused evacuation because of the critical situation. While lying in a prone position exposed to heavy enemy fire, he directed the fire of his men and the evacuation of casualties until all wounded had been removed and the company had successfully moved to its assigned position before permitting himself to be evacuated. His outstanding courage, determination and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

R-Cleveland Heights, Ohio  
B-Cleveland, Ohio

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

430886  
DGP-298-Navy-RDA

F  
FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 44533  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure  
in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

CORPORAL ROBERT J. VERBER,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a Machine Gun Section Leader of Company E, Third Battalion, Twenty-sixth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 16 March 1945. When his Platoon Leader and the Senior Non-Commissioned Officers of the platoon became casualties while moving to a new position, Corporal Verber immediately set up his guns in position to cover the platoon from enemy fire and then began to organize the men of the platoon into a defensive line and to evacuate the wounded. By repeatedly braving the heavy hostile fire, he established an effective defense which enabled the casualties to be evacuated and prevented the Japanese from assaulting his section of the line. He remained with his men, continuing his heroic efforts, until he was wounded and evacuated. His resolute courage and aggressive fighting spirit were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

R--De Pere, Wisc.,  
B--De Pere, Wisc.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

399996  
DGP-298-rkz

*Open book*

Cincpac  
Appd SofN 11-21-45  
Serial 35608  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

OCT 10 1946

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

PLATOON SERGEANT DOUGLAS A. VIBERT, JR.,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as Leader of a Mortar Section of Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, Twenty-eighth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 21 February 1945. Quick to act when a dangerous gap developed between two Marine battalions attacking the intricate network of hostile positions surrounding the base of Mt. Suribachi, Platoon Sergeant Vibert unhesitatingly led his section forward and, moving under cover of darkness in the face of repeated infiltration attempts by the enemy, succeeded in joining the flanks of the two friendly units despite heavy casualties to his small force. Coolly vigilant throughout the night, he fearlessly exposed himself to vicious grenade and small-arms fire as he moved constantly up and down his line, maintaining close contact with his men and encouraging them to hold throughout the remaining night hours. When three of his men were killed and another three wounded by Japanese grenades, he skillfully directed the evacuation of the casualties and then personally took over their position in an effort to prevent a hostile break-through at that point. Although seriously wounded while directing his troop's fire against the final Japanese attack, Platoon Sergeant Vibert, by his dauntless initiative, indomitable fighting spirit and sound combat tactics, had inspired his group to heroic effort throughout the fierce action which resulted in the annihilation of sixty of the enemy, thereby contributing to the fulfillment of an extremely hazardous mission. His valiant leadership in the face of overwhelming odds upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country."

For the President,

R--Somerville, Mass.

B--Medford, Mass.

JAMES FORRESTAL  
Secretary of the Navy.

934106  
DGP-298-ebg

ComGenFMF Ser 47152  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

CORPORAL LOUIE F. VICKERS,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as an Ambulance Driver for the Fifth Marine Division Field Hospital, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 4 March 1945. Proceeding to the front lines to remove casualties, Corporal Vickers encountered a heavy enemy mortar barrage and stopped to take cover in a cave. Inside the cave, he came upon seven Japanese, one of whom shot him in the leg. Quickly firing his .45 caliber pistol, Corporal Vickers killed two of the Japanese in rapid succession and, covering the remaining five, took them prisoners. With the aid of another Marine, he delivered the captured enemy to his Commanding Officer before having his own wound treated. His quick actions, heroic conduct and devotion to duty upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R..Kemball, W. Va.

B..Jenkinjones, W. Va.

478645  
DGP-298-eln

Approved SofN. 3-1-44  
Serial 0058  
Signed MAY 22 1944

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CLEMENT M. VIENNA, USMC.,  
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with the First Marine Parachute Battalion during action against enemy Japanese forces near Koi-ari, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, on November 29, 1943. When his platoon was held up by heavy Japanese machine-gun fire, Private First Class Vienna unhesitatingly charged the hostile machine-gun position, sacrificing his life in a courageous attempt to put it out of action. His valiant fighting spirit in the face of grave peril was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

For the President,

JAMES FORRESTAL

Secretary of the Navy.

R...Sacramento, Calif.

E... " "

042099  
DGP-298-vml

AppdSofN 3-9-48  
Board Serial  
0624

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

SECOND LIEUTENANT GEORGE C. VILLARET,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as a Platoon Leader of Company F, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, on 2 May 1945. When his company was pinned down by intense enemy fire and was without radio communications, Second Lieutenant Villaret unhesitatingly made his way through heavy fire to the Company Command Post and requested screening smoke. Returning to his platoon under the same perilous conditions, he expeditiously withdrew his unit under cover of the smoke screen with no further losses despite the fact that the Company's right flank was completely exposed. After withdrawal, Second Lieutenant Villaret and a corpsman returned to the evacuated position and effected the rescue of a wounded man who was lying in an exposed position, carrying him in their arms to a place of comparative safety because there were no stretchers available. His initiative, extreme courage and coolness under fire reflect directly upon Lieutenant Villaret and the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R--San Antonio, Tex.,  
B--San Antonio, Tex.

935506  
DGP-298-dmr

FMF, Pac  
SPOT  
Serial 98301

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANTHONY M. VINCHOFSKY, SR.,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a Demolition Corporal of Company G, Third Battalion, Twenty-ninth Marines, Sixth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, on 16 April 1945. While advancing with his platoon up the precipitous slopes of a strongly-held Japanese ridge, Private First Class Vinchofsky located an enemy gun position. Without waiting for orders, he proceeded twenty-five yards to the front of our firing line, placed a demolition pack and blasted this key hostile position which dominated a strategic location, thereby permitting our entire line to advance. Then, although wounded while posted at the exit of a tunnel leading from the gun position, Private First Class Vinchofsky remained steadfast at his station and refused to be evacuated until the objective had been taken. His aggressive fighting spirit was an inspiration to his comrades, and his devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

R--Mahanoy City, Pa.  
B--Mahanoy City, Pa.

FRANCIS P. MATTHEWS  
Secretary of the Navy.

VINTON, Fred S.

Private First Class

269084

SILVER STAR - Awarded by despatch 4-27-42. Filed on case 1740-55-65  
(Army) Service at Ph. Is.

Previous Awards - None.

Born: 7-24-16 - Jackson, Michigan.

Current Enl.: 12-2-38 - Chicago, Illinois.

Legal Residence: Jackson, Michigan.

Next of Kin: Mrs. Cornelia Vinton, (Mother)

(b) (6)

426160  
DGP-298-vml

Cincpac  
Serial 34878  
AppdSofN-1-10-46  
Signed MAR 3 1947

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

CORPORAL CHARLES F. VOELKER,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving in a platoon of Company B, First Battalion, Twenty-sixth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces at Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 21 February 1945. When his company's assault across the beaches was temporarily halted by a hail of fire from a fiercely defending hostile force in a pillbox, Corporal Voelker boldly crawled out in advance of his platoon and, ignoring the intense small-arms fire immediately concentrated on him, pressed forward relentlessly to a position where he could bring fire to bear upon the emplacement from his antitank rocket launcher. Pouring round after round into the fortification, he destroyed the formidable strong point before he was fatally wounded after having expended his last shell. His courage and zealous devotion to duty in voluntarily undertaking this hazardous mission inspired his comrades to renew their attack and achieve their objective, thereby reflecting the highest credit upon Corporal Voelker and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

For the President,  
JAMES FORRESTAL

Secretary of the Navy.

R--Crafton, Pennsylvania.  
B--Crafton, Pennsylvania.

907785  
DGP-298-sjs

Cincpac  
Appd SofN 1-29-46  
Serial 52828  
Signed APR 7 1947

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CORNELIUS A. VOERMANS,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as a Fire Team Leader, serving with Company C, First Battalion, Twenty-ninth Marines, Sixth Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima, Ryukyu Group, 15 May 1945. While his company was attacking a fiercely defended Japanese fortification which was firmly entrenched in the crest of a hill, Private First Class Voermans advanced ahead of his unit to a position from which he could hurl grenades at the enemy emplacements. When his squad was forced to withdraw due to the intensity of the enemy fire, he valiantly stood his ground, calling for more grenades which he showered upon the Japanese until he was mortally wounded. His unflinching courage, valiant determination and heroic efforts throughout resulted in heavy enemy casualties and reflect the highest credit upon Private First Class Voermans and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country."

For the President,

JAMES FORRESTAL

Secretary of the Navy.

R- Tomahawk, Wisconsin  
B- Harrison, Wisconsin

07767

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

CAPTAIN FRANK H. VOGEL, JR., USMCR.,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action as Commanding Officer of Company "C", First Battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division, in the landing at Cape Torokina, Bougainville Island, on November 1, 1943. Discovering that his company had become completely disorganized by the heavy enemy fire which killed his executive officer and command group and destroyed his reserve platoon during the extremely hazardous approach to the beach, Captain Vogel unhesitatingly called on all Marines in his area to follow him and, courageously exposing himself to the intense and persistent hostile fire, led them in a daring charge through the enemy positions to the objective previously assigned to his company. Upon reaching his destination, he reorganized his squads and platoons, appointed leaders, reversed the direction of his advance and prepared to attack the Japanese positions from the rear. Later in the day, he led his company through dense jungle to the battalion's initial beachhead line, establishing an effective Combat Outpost which subsequently defeated several enemy attempts to reenter the Cape Torokina Sector, and, although he had no previous experience, successfully adjusted the artillery fire across the front of the battalion's position. Captain Vogel's inspiring leadership and heroic devotion to duty throughout these vital operations were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

/s/ James Forrestal  
Secretary of the Navy.

R-Columbus, Ohio  
B-Columbus, Ohio

Copy

553607  
DGP-298-dmr

FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 79496

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS LOUIS C. VOIGT,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with Company A, First Engineer Battalion, First Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, 6 May 1945. After extremely heavy hostile mortar and machine-gun fire had forced the tactical withdrawal of the assault company, Private First Class Voigt volunteered with a comrade to go forward to friendly lines to bring back a wounded Marine who had been overlooked by the corpsmen. Undaunted by intense enemy fire and the difficult terrain, he ran approximately four hundred yards to reach the casualty and, upon finding that the man's left leg had been completely severed, assisted in applying a tourniquet fashioned from communication wire and helped carry the wounded man on a poncho back to an aid station. His outstanding courage and devotion to duty under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

**JOHN L. SULLIVAN**

Secretary of the Navy.

R--Minneapolis, Minn.  
B--Akely, Minn.

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PLATOON SERGEANT STANCE VOLAK,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as Leader of a Mortar Platoon of the Third Battalion, Twenty-Fifth Marines, Fourth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on the Island of Tinian in the Marianas, on 25 and 28 July 1944. Braving a heavy enemy barrage when he observed a large number of hostile troops infiltrating close to our front lines during a furious Japanese counterattack on 25 July, Platoon Sergeant Volak moved forward to observe and direct the fire of his mortars and, bringing the full power of his weapons to bear on the enemy, skillfully blasted their position and aided materially in annihilating the Japanese force. With our advance temporarily halted by fanatic enemy resistance on 28 July, he held the fire of his platoon on the stubborn Japanese strong point despite painful wounds received in the bitter fire fight, steadfastly continuing his relentless attack and inflicting heavy casualties in support of his company's vital mission. By his aggressive leadership, indomitable fighting spirit and tenacious determination in the face of terrific odds, Platoon Sergeant Volak contributed essentially to the ultimate conquest of this important Japanese base, and his undaunted courage and decisive conduct throughout a period of fierce hostilities upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JAMES FORRESTAL  
Secretary of the Navy.

R--Washburn, Wisc.  
B--Washburn, Wisc.

340344  
AW-298-ebs

Spot Award, 1942  
Serial 18  
Signed MAR 18 1943

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS STUART J. VOLAN, U.S.M.C.R.,  
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as a Regimental Intelligence Observer of the First Marines, First Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces in the Tenaru Sector, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, August 21, 1942. By his accurate and timely observation and report of enemy activity, Private First Class Volan rendered valuable service until the communication wire from his station to the Command Post had been severed. Promptly taking a position on the front lines, he engaged the enemy in furious hand-to-hand combat and aided effectively in driving back the enemy with great losses and in preventing them from establishing a foothold on the western side of the Tenaru River. Later, when action had subsided, he made his way through the bullet-swept area to make his report to the Regimental Command Post."

For the President,

FRANK KNOX

Secretary of the Navy.

R..Syracuse, New York.

B..Syracuse, New York.

~~That portion of the above citation underlined in red should not be given either verbally or in writing to any person without the permission of the officer in charge of the Decorations and Medals Division.~~

415558  
DGP-298-mvm

F  
FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 47152  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE OVIAN W. VON BEHREN,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as an Automatic Rifleman of Company B, First Battalion, Twenty-eighth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 21 February 1945. Observing that his platoon was pinned down by heavy enemy machine-gun and small-arms fire, Private Von Behren leaped from his covered position and, signaling a near-by flame thrower tank, coolly guided it ahead of the platoon, directing its fire until two enemy pillboxes had been destroyed, thereby enabling the platoon to advance and seize its objective. Private Von Behren's initiative, courage and devotion to duty in the face of intense enemy fire upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R--Detroit, Mich.  
B--Detroit, Mich.

415558  
DGP-298-Navy-RDA

F  
FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 8821  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the GOLD STAR in lieu of a Second Silver Star Medal to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS OVIAN W. VON BEHREN,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a Rifleman in a Platoon of Company B, First Battalion, Twenty-eighth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 1 March 1945. When his Platoon Leader was severely wounded during a reconnaissance of enemy positions well forward of the front lines, Private First Class Von Behren and another Marine rushed forward through heavy hostile small-arms fire and skillfully administered first aid to the stricken man. Although driven back by Japanese hand grenade fire as he and his companion attempted to drag the wounded officer to safety, he returned alone and assisted him to a depression out of the line of fire. Observing an enemy soldier crawling toward the depression not more than twenty yards away, he killed the Japanese soldier and, after the arrival of assistance, directed the evacuation of his Platoon Leader to the Battalion Aid Station. His courageous initiative and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

R--Detroit, Mich.,  
B--Detroit, Mich.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

045961  
311224  
DGP-298-Navy-RDA

CincPac  
SPOT  
Serial 01489  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROBERT E. VOORHEES,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with Company K, Third Battalion, Eighth Marines, Second Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces at Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, 22 November 1943. With his company pinned down and suffering heavy casualties from heavy enemy fire emanating from a large bomb-proof shelter, Corporal Voorhees moved forward with four companions under intense enemy shellfire to a favorable position for providing cover for the advancing demolition squad. After the shelter had been partially demolished and approximately one hundred Japanese troops annihilated, he again advanced with his comrades as two hundred of the enemy emerged from the entrance firing rifles and light machine guns in an effort to withdraw and establish a new defense. Engaging the outnumbering force in close combat, he contributed to the success of his unit in accounting for many more hostile troops, thereby enabling the battalion to advance and occupy the northeast section of the island. His courage and devotion to duty throughout reflect the highest credit upon Corporal Voorhees and the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R..Eureka, Mont.,

B..Eureka, Mont.

045961

311224

DGP-298-tes

FMF Pac  
SPOT  
8062

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the GOLD STAR in lieu of a second SILVER STAR MEDAL to

CORPORAL ROBERT E. VOORNEES,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving with Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, Eighth Marines, Second Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Tinian, Marianas Islands, on 3 and 4 August 1944. Approaching the mouth of a large enemy-occupied cave and exposing himself to enemy fire after a comrade had been killed by a hostile demolition charge, Corporal Voornees delivered a large volume of fire into the interior of the cave, screening the recovery of his comrade's body. On the following day, he braved enemy grenades and contributed materially to the neutralization of three Japanese positions. His skill, courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R--Eur@ka, Montana  
B--Eurka, Montana

309467  
DGP-298-vml

FMFPac  
SPOT  
Serial 90496  
Signed OCT 23 1947

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

CORPORAL SIDNEY B. VOSPER,  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

**CITATION:**

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as a Squad Leader of Company I, Third Battalion, Twenty-second Marines, Sixth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, on 10 May 1945. Although severely wounded when the intensity of hostile rifle and machine-gun fire rendered his company's position untenable, Corporal Vosper went to his platoon leader to obtain permission to withdraw from the high ground. Wounded again while returning to the squad, he skillfully extricated his men from their precarious position with a minimum of casualties and remained with the squad until it had been sufficiently reorganized to continue the attack. His courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,

JOHN L. SULLIVAN

Secretary of the Navy.

R--Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.,  
B--Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the SILVER STAR MEDAL to

SERGEANT MAJOR VOUZA, B.S.I.P. CONSTABULARY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity during efforts in behalf of United States Armed Forces in the British Solomon Islands. On August 7, 1942, Sergeant Major Vouza effected a daring rescue and delivered into friendly hands an officer of the United States Navy who had been shot down in Japanese territory during an aerial engagement. Again, on August 27, while proceeding on an authorized mission for the United States Marine Corps to locate suspected enemy lookout stations, he was seized by hostile troops and lashed to a tree, where, rather than break his faith or betray his trust, he submitted to brutal and fiendish torture. Severely bayoneted about the chest and throat and left for dead, Sergeant Major Vouza, with great strength and almost superhuman endurance, extricated himself from his bonds and made his way back to our lines with valuable information concerning the enemy Japanese."

For the President,

JAMES FORRESTAL

Secretary of the Navy.

Copy to:  
Board of Awards  
Secretary's Files  
Public Relations, Navy Dept.  
Public Relations, BuPers  
Mrs. Casbarian, Public Relations

Approved by the President  
of the United States  
12-31-42.

S.S. & citation forwarded to  
C.G., 1stMarAmphibious Corps, F.M.F. for  
presentation 1-23-43