



# *GEM STATE GEMS*

## **Gem State Branch 382**

**Fleet Reserve Association**

[www.fra382.org](http://www.fra382.org)

[fra-nwregion.org](http://fra-nwregion.org)

[www.fra.org](http://www.fra.org)

**May 2024**

## **News from the Branch**

### **President:**

Four months gone, 2024 is moving fast.

Activities around the branch are in full swing.

Ground maintenance has started with the first mow/ trim/ and weed pull. As usual the volunteer team that participated was Shipmates Franklin and Hall.

Footings and block placement on the retaining wall has begun on the north end of our property and the fencing project is scheduled to begin next week.

Nominations and election will conclude at our May meeting so please attend and be a part of this process.

Parade America in Nampa is May 18th. We will have our Float in the parade, you are welcome to join us for a fun time, normally we go to lunch afterward.

The Fourth of July Parade in Caldwell is coming up also.

Regional Convention is September 6th-8th at the Clover Island Inn in Kennewick WA. Get your room reservations and meal selections made.

National Convention is November 8th-18th at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Annapolis, MD. Check the National website for the latest newsletter. If you have questions concerning either convention, call one of the staff members.

Memorial Day celebration at Idaho State Veterans Cemetery is May 27th at 1000hrs We will be presenting our wreath at this ceremony. This is always well attended so arrive early.

Tribute to the Rock of Honor will take place at Kliener Park in Meridian at 1100hrs also on May 27th. Plus numerous other celebrations in the local area.

For those who are not aware, Ladies Auxiliary of Unit #382 has surrendered their Charter. This action was the result of difficulty in recruiting new members and lack of participation at meetings and local events. We are deeply saddened by this as they executed numerous programs in the area to help Veterans.

In the last couple of years the FRA Northwest region has lost two Branches to Surrender of Charter, Roseburg, and Anchorage. Two other Branches are rumored to be considering this action. Others have combined with another branch to be able to continue activities serving Veterans.

Branch # 382 seems to be headed in the same direction. This can be stopped by participation. and recruiting. Participating in;

- Attending meetings, second Saturday each month. (about 2 hours.)
- Assisting in Branch activities
- Participating in the three Parades that we are a part of.
- Taking part in local Veteran activities.
- Being a part of the organizing and operation of the Branch.

No one is expected to be all of this but participating at some level would be helpful. Branch #382 has 91 members, 61 of these members live within 25 miles of our branch home. Attendance at the Branch Meetings has dwindled to 7-9 members, used to be 15-20. Our Coffee Klatch attendance has dropped to 3-6 members, at one time it was 12-16. Branch activities participation is less than that.

Members willing to take a position in the branch are down to those who are already serving in those positions. To put it bluntly, we need your help, your expertise, your ideas. I for one do not want to see our

branch close. Be a part of the branch, not just a member.

As always remember those on the binnacle list and those who may need a helping hand.

In Loyalty, Protection & Service,  
Bill Hall,  
President Branch 382  
(208) 695-1664

## **News from the Branch Vice President:**

I think it really is Spring, finally! A time of rebirth. We all need to be thinking about what we want to achieve this year, both as individuals and as a Branch. Numerous projects are on the horizon. Also, elections are just around the corner. You need to be thinking how you can serve your Branch!

Those members that haven't been attending our monthly meetings, please make an effort to show up. Covid is behind us. Life goes on. We would really like to see your faces on the second Saturday at 10:00 AM.

Those of you on Facebook, check out the latest photos that have been posted. If you have photos of events in which we have participated, please email a copy to me so that they can be posted. Every week, the number of our viewers increases. Several FRA branches from around the country are following our page. It is a good way to reach potential new members and keep our members informed.

Elections are coming up this month. If you wish to have input into our leadership, you need to show up and vote. Also, consider sharing your talent and volunteer to hold an office. We all have talents that we can share. If you don't feel

up to an executive position, consider being a member of the Board.

Just as a reminder, keep reaching out to potential new members. The valley is full of former members of the Navy, Marine Corp and Coast Guard. We have had the good fortune of having a couple new members join as a result of our recent membership contest. We may want to have a second round. Carry an application with you when you attend events that attract potential members, such as your American Legion meetings or the Koffee Klatch at the Warhawk Museum in Nampa.

With Spring here, projects will be starting up at the Branch home soon. Be ready to volunteer your time. Many hands make light work.

In Loyalty, Protection and Service  
Stephen Loop  
Vice President, Branch 382

## Branch and Unit Events:

### May

Month of the Military Caregiver  
National Military Appreciation Month  
01 - Silver Star Service Banner Day  
01 - Loyalty Day  
01 - Coffee at The Roastere (1:30 PM)  
02 - National Day of Prayer  
04 – Northwest Region Mid-Year Convention (2 PM)  
05 - 11 - Public Service Recognition Week  
05 - 11 - National Correctional Officers Week  
06 - 12 - National Nurses Week  
07 - Kilroy Coffee Klatch Warhawk Museum (10 AM)  
08 - Victory in Europe Day  
08 - Coffee at The Roastere (1:30 PM)  
10 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day  
11 - 18 - Armed Forces Week  
11 - Branch Meeting (10 AM)  
12 - Mother Day  
13 - Children of Fallen Patriots Day  
15 - Peace Officers Memorial Day  
15 - Coffee at the Roastere (1:30 PM)  
18 - Armed Forces Day  
22 - Coffee at The Roastere (1:30 PM)  
27 - Memorial Day  
29 - Coffee at The Roastere (1:30 PM)

### June

PTSD Awareness Month  
04 - Kilroy Coffee Klatch Warhawk Museum (10 AM)  
05 - Coffee at The Roastere (1:30 PM)  
06 - D-Day  
08 - Branch Meeting (10 AM)  
12 - Women Veterans Day  
12 - Coffee at The Roastere (1:30 PM)  
14 - Flag Day  
16 - Father's Day  
19 - Juneteenth  
19 - Coffee at The Roastere (1:30 PM)  
23 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday (85 Years)  
26 - Coffee at The Roastere (1:30 PM)  
27 - PTSD Awareness Day

## Branch Birthdays:

### May

09 - Robert Baisden  
21 - Roger Christopher  
25 - Donald Vaughn  
31 - William Heyob

### June

01 – Charles Cavaiani  
03 – Roy Cagnacci  
12 – Stephen Loop  
18 – Wayne Burian  
23 – Dale Kosobud  
28 – Marie Givens  
30 – David Odom

## This Day in U.S. Navy History:

**May 2, 1945** - Hospital Apprentice Robert E. Bush administers aid to a wounded Marine officer and fires back at the Japanese at the same time, earning the Medal of Honor.

**May 8, 1945** - The unconditional surrender of Germany was ratified by Allies in Berlin. This event is remembered as V-E Day!

**May 10, 1945** - During the Okinawa Campaign, Pharmacists Mate Second Class William D. Halyburton aids a fallen Marine, shields his body, and is mortally wounded. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. USS Halyburton (FFG-40) is named in his honor.

**May 24, 1939** - Vice Adm. Allan McCann's Rescue Chamber is first used to rescue 33 men from the sunken USS Squalus (SS 192). Four Navy divers receive the Medal of Honor for their heroic actions on May 24-25 to rescue the trapped men.

**May 26, 1958** - Medal of Honor recipient Hospitalman William R. Charette selects the World War II Unknown Serviceman onboard USS Canberra (CAG 2) off the Virginia Capes.

**May 27, 1942** - Mess Attendant 2nd Class Doris Miller receives the Navy Cross for his heroism at Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. Adm. Chester W. Nimitz presents the medal to Miller on board USS Enterprise (CV 6). He is killed when his ship is torpedoed Nov. 24, 1943, during the invasion of the Gilbert Islands.

## Battle of Okinawa Medals of Honor

The Battle of Okinawa lasted from April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 22, 1945. Below are members of the Navy, Marine Corps that were awarded the Medal of Honor during the battle.

### ROBERT EUGENE BUSH



BORN: OCTOBER 4, 1926, TACOMA, PIERCE COUNTY, WA

RANK: HOSPITAL APPRENTICE FIRST CLASS

UNIT/COMMAND: 3D PLATOON, COMPANY G, 2D BATTALION, 5<sup>TH</sup> MARINES, 1<sup>ST</sup> MARINE DIVISION

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: MAY 2, 1945

DIED: NOVEMBER 8, 2005, OLYMPIA, WA

CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as medical corpsman with a rifle company, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Jima, Ryukyu Islands, 2 May 1945. Fearlessly braving the fury of artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire from strongly entrenched hostile positions, Bush constantly and unhesitatingly moved from one casualty to another to attend the wounded falling under the enemy's murderous barrages. As the attack passed over a ridge top, Bush was advancing to administer blood plasma to a marine officer lying wounded on the skyline when the Japanese launched a savage counterattack. In this perilously exposed position, he resolutely maintained the flow of lifegiving plasma. With the bottle held high in one hand, Bush drew his pistol with the other and fired into the enemy ranks until his ammunition was expended. Quickly seizing a discarded carbine, he trained his fire on the Japanese charging point-blank over the hill, accounting for six of the enemy despite his own serious wounds and the loss of one eye suffered during his desperate battle in defense of the helpless man. With the hostile force finally routed, he calmly disregarded his own critical condition to complete his mission, valiantly refusing medical treatment for himself until his officer patient had been evacuated, and collapsing only after attempting to walk to the battle aid station. His daring initiative, great personal valor, and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice in service of others reflect great credit upon Bush and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

## **RICHARD EARL BUSH**



**BORN:** DECEMBER 23, 1923, GLASGOW, BARREN COUNTY, KY

**RANK:** CORPORAL

**UNIT/COMMAND:** 3D SQUAD, 3D PLATOON, COMPANY C, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 4TH MARINES, 6TH MARINE DIVISION

**MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE:** APRIL 16, 1945

**DIED:** JUNE 7, 2004, WAUKEGAN, IL

### **CITATION**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a squad leader serving with the 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 6th Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces, during the final assault against Mount Yaetake on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, 16 April 1945. Rallying his men forward with indomitable determination, Cpl.

Bush boldly defied the slashing fury of concentrated Japanese artillery fire pouring down from the gun-studded mountain fortress to lead his squad up the face of the rocky precipice, sweep over the ridge, and drive the defending troops from their deeply entrenched position. With his unit, the first to break through the inner defense of Mount Yaetake, he fought relentlessly in the forefront of the action until seriously wounded and evacuated with others under protecting rocks. Although prostrate under medical treatment when a Japanese hand grenade landed in the midst of the group, Cpl. Bush, alert and courageous in extremity as in battle, unhesitatingly pulled the deadly missile to himself and absorbed the shattering violence of the exploding charge in his body, thereby saving his fellow marines from severe injury or death despite the certain peril to his own life. By his valiant leadership and aggressive tactics in the face of savage opposition, Cpl. Bush contributed materially to the success of the sustained drive toward the conquest of this fiercely defended outpost of the Japanese Empire. His constant concern for the welfare of his men, his resolute spirit of self-sacrifice, and his unwavering devotion to duty throughout the bitter conflict enhance and sustain the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

## **JAMES LEWIS DAY**



**BORN:** OCTOBER 5, 1925, EAST ST. LOUIS, SAINT CLAIR COUNTY, IL

**RANK:** CORPORAL

**UNIT/COMMAND:** 2D BATTALION, 22D MARINES, 6TH MARINE DIVISION

**MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE:** MAY 17, 1945

**DIED:** OCTOBER 28, 1998, CATHEDRAL CITY, CA

### **CITATION**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty as a Squad Leader in sustained combat operations against Japanese forces. On the first day, Corporal Day rallied his squad and the remnants of another unit and led them to a critical position forward of the front lines of Sugar Loaf Hill. Soon thereafter, they came under an intense mortar and artillery barrage that was quickly followed by a ferocious ground attack by some forty Japanese soldiers. Despite the loss of one-half of his men, Corporal Day remained at the forefront, shouting encouragement, hurling hand grenades, and directing deadly fire, thereby repelling the determined enemy. Reinforced by six men, he led his squad in repelling three fierce night attacks but suffered five additional Marines killed and one wounded, whom

he assisted to safety. Upon hearing nearby calls for corpsman assistance, Corporal Day braved heavy enemy fire to escort four seriously wounded Marines, one at a time, to safety. Corporal Day then manned a light machine gun, assisted by a wounded Marine, and halted another night attack. In this ferocious action, his machine gun was destroyed, and he suffered multiple white phosphorous and fragmentation wounds. He reorganized his defensive position in time to halt a fifth enemy attack with devastating small arms fire. On three separate occasions, Japanese soldiers closed to within a few feet of his foxhole, but were killed by Corporal Day. During the second day, the enemy conducted numerous unsuccessful swarming attacks against his exposed position. When the attacks momentarily subsided, over 70 enemy dead were counted around his position. On the third day, a wounded and exhausted Corporal Day repulsed the enemy's final attack, killing a dozen enemy soldiers at close range. Having yielded no ground and with more than 100 enemy dead around his position, Corporal Day preserved the lives of his fellow Marines and made a significant contribution to the success of the Okinawa campaign. By his extraordinary heroism, repeated acts of valor, and quintessential battlefield leadership, Corporal Day inspired the efforts of his outnumbered Marines to defeat a much larger enemy force, reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

## **JOHN PETER FARDY**



**BORN:** AUGUST 15, 1922, CHICAGO, COOK COUNTY, IL

**RANK:** CORPORAL

**UNIT/COMMAND:** COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

**MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE:** MAY 7, 1945

**DIED:** MAY 7, 1945, OKINAWA SHIMA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

### **CITATION**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a squad leader, serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Islands, 7 May 1945. When his squad was suddenly assailed by extremely heavy small-arms fire from the front during a determined advance against strongly fortified, fiercely defended Japanese positions, Cpl. Fardy temporarily deployed his men along a nearby drainage ditch. Shortly thereafter, an enemy grenade fell among the marines in the ditch. Instantly throwing himself upon the deadly

missile, Cpl. Fardy absorbed the exploding blast in his own body, thereby protecting his comrades from certain and perhaps fatal injuries. Concerned solely for the welfare of his men, he willingly relinquished his own hope of survival that his fellow marines might live to carry on the fight against a fanatic enemy. A stouthearted leader and indomitable fighter, Cpl. Fardy, by his prompt decision and resolute spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death, had rendered valiant service, and his conduct throughout reflects the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

## **WILLIAM ADELBERT FOSTER**



**BORN:** FEBRUARY 17, 1915, CLEVELAND, CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OH

**RANK:** PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

**UNIT/COMMAND:** COMPANY K, 3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

**MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE:** MAY 2, 1945

**DIED:** MAY 2, 1945, OKINAWA SHIMA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

### **CITATION**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a rifleman with the 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Chain, 2 May 1945. Dug in with another marine on the point of the perimeter defense after waging a furious assault against a strongly fortified Japanese position, Pfc. Foster and his comrade engaged in a fierce hand-grenade duel with infiltrating enemy soldiers. Suddenly an enemy grenade landed beyond reach of the foxhole. Instantly diving on the deadly missile, Pfc. Foster absorbed the exploding charge in his own body, thereby protecting the other marine from serious injury. Although mortally wounded as a result of his heroic action, he quickly rallied, handed his own two remaining grenades to his comrade and said, "Make them count." Stouthearted and indomitable, he had unhesitatingly relinquished his own chance of survival that his fellow marine might carry on the relentless fight against a fanatic enemy, and his dauntless determination, cool decision, and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death reflect the highest credit upon Pfc. Foster and upon the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.

## HAROLD GONSALVES



BORN: JANUARY 28, 1926, ALAMEDA, ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA

RANK: PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

UNIT/COMMAND: BATTERY L, 4TH BATTALION, 15TH MARINES, 6TH MARINE DIVISION

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: APRIL 15, 1945

DIED: APRIL 15, 1945, OKINAWA SHIMA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

### CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as acting scout sergeant with the 4th Battalion, 15th Marines, 6th Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Chain, 15 April 1945. Undaunted by the powerfully organized opposition encountered on Motobu Peninsula during the fierce assault waged by his battalion against the Japanese stronghold at Mount Yaetake, Pfc. Gonsalves repeatedly braved the terrific enemy bombardment to aid his forward observation team in directing well-placed artillery fire. When his commanding officer determined to move into the front lines in order to register a more effective bombardment in the enemy's defensive position, he unhesitatingly advanced uphill with the officer and another marine despite a slashing barrage of enemy mortar and rifle fire. As they reached the front and a Japanese grenade fell close within the group, instantly Pfc. Gonsalves dived on the deadly missile, absorbing the exploding charge in his own body and thereby protecting the others from serious and perhaps fatal wounds. Stouthearted and indomitable, Pfc. Gonsalves readily yielded his own chances of survival that his fellow marines might carry on the relentless battle against a fanatic enemy, and his cool decision, prompt action, and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death reflect the highest credit upon himself and upon the U.S. Naval Service.

## **WILLIAM DAVID HALYBURTON JR.**



BORN: AUGUST 2, 1924, CANTON, HAYWOOD COUNTY, NC  
RANK: PHARMACIST'S MATE SECOND CLASS  
UNIT/COMMAND: 2D BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION  
MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: MAY 10, 1945  
DIED: MAY 10, 1945, OKINAWA SHIMA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

### **CITATION**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with a Marine Rifle Company in the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Chain, 10 May 1945. Undaunted by the deadly accuracy of Japanese counterfire as his unit pushed the attack through a strategically important draw, Halyburton unhesitatingly dashed across the draw and up the hill into an open fire-swept field where the company advance squad was suddenly pinned down under a terrific concentration of mortar, machine-gun, and sniper fire with resultant severe casualties. Moving steadily forward despite the enemy's merciless barrage, he reached the wounded marine who lay farthest away and was rendering first aid when his patient was struck for a second time by a Japanese bullet. Instantly placing himself in the direct line of fire, he shielded the fallen fighter with his own body and staunchly continued his ministrations although constantly menaced by the slashing fury of shrapnel and bullets falling on all sides. Alert, determined, and completely unselfish in his concern for the helpless marine, he persevered in his efforts until he himself sustained mortal wounds and collapsed, heroically sacrificing himself that his comrade might live. By his outstanding valor and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of tremendous odds, Halyburton sustained and enhanced the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.

## DALE MERLIN HANSEN



BORN: DECEMBER 13, 1922, WISNER, CUMING COUNTY, NE

RANK: PRIVATE

UNIT/COMMAND: COMPANY E, 2D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: MAY 7, 1945

DIED: MAY 11, 1945, OKINAWA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

### CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Company E, 2d Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Chain, 7 May 1945. Cool and courageous in combat, Pvt. Hansen unhesitatingly took the initiative during a critical stage of the action and, armed with a rocket launcher, crawled to an exposed position where he attacked and destroyed a strategically located hostile pillbox. With his weapon subsequently destroyed by enemy fire, he seized a rifle and continued his one-man assault. Reaching the crest of a ridge, he leaped across, opened fire on six Japanese, and killed four before his rifle jammed. Attacked by the remaining two Japanese, he beat them off with the butt of his rifle and then climbed back to cover. Promptly returning with another weapon and supply of grenades, he fearlessly advanced, destroyed a strong mortar position, and annihilated eight more of the enemy. In the forefront of battle throughout this bitterly waged engagement, Pvt. Hansen, by his indomitable determination, bold tactics, and complete disregard of all personal danger, contributed essentially to the success of his company's mission and to the ultimate capture of this fiercely defended outpost of the Japanese Empire. His great personal valor in the face of extreme peril reflects the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service.

## LOUIS JAMES HAUGE JR.



BORN: DECEMBER 12, 1924, ADA, NORMAN COUNTY, MN

RANK: CORPORAL

UNIT/COMMAND: COMPANY C, 1ST BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: MAY 14, 1945

DIED: MAY 14, 1945, OKINAWA SHIMA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

### CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as leader of a machine-gun squad serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Chain on 14 May 1945. Alert and aggressive during a determined assault against a strongly fortified Japanese hill position, Cpl. Hauge boldly took the initiative when his company's left flank was pinned down under a heavy machine-gun and mortar barrage with resultant severe casualties and, quickly locating the two machine guns which were delivering the uninterrupted stream of enfilade fire, ordered his squad to maintain a covering barrage as he rushed across an exposed area toward the furiously blazing enemy weapons. Although painfully wounded as he charged the first machine gun, he launched a vigorous singlehanded grenade attack, destroyed the entire hostile gun position, and moved relentlessly forward toward the other emplacement despite his wounds and the increasingly heavy Japanese fire. Undaunted by the savage opposition, he again hurled his deadly grenades with unerring aim and succeeded in demolishing the second enemy gun before he fell under the slashing fury of Japanese sniper fire. By his ready grasp of the critical situation and his heroic one-man assault tactics, Cpl. Hauge had eliminated two strategically placed enemy weapons, thereby releasing the besieged troops from an overwhelming volume of hostile fire and enabling his company to advance. His indomitable fighting spirit and decisive valor in the face of almost certain death reflect the highest credit upon Cpl. Hauge and the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.

## ELBERT LUTHER KINSER



BORN: OCTOBER 21, 1922, GREENEVILLE, GREENE COUNTY, TN

RANK: SERGEANT

UNIT/COMMAND: COMPANY I, 3D BATTALION, 1ST MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: MAY 4, 1945

DIED: MAY 4, 1945, OKINAWA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

### CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while acting as leader of a rifle platoon, serving with Company I, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, in action against Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Chain, 4 May 1945. Taken under sudden, close attack by hostile troops entrenched on the reverse slope while moving up a strategic ridge along which his platoon was holding newly won positions, Sgt. Kinser engaged the enemy in a fierce hand-grenade battle. Quick to act when a Japanese grenade landed in the immediate vicinity, Sgt. Kinser unhesitatingly threw himself on the deadly missile, absorbing the full charge of the shattering explosion in his own body and thereby protecting his men from serious injury and possible death. Stouthearted and indomitable, he had yielded his own chance of survival that his comrades might live to carry on the relentless battle against the fanatic enemy. His courage, cool decision, and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death sustained and enhanced the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

## FRED FAULKNER LESTER



BORN: APRIL 29, 1926, DOWNERS GROVE, DU PAGE COUNTY, IL

RANK: HOSPITAL APPRENTICE FIRST CLASS

UNIT/COMMAND: ASSAULT RIFLE (2D) PLATOON, A COMPANY, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 22D MARINES, 6TH MARINE DIVISION

DIED: JUNE 8, 1945, OKINAWA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

### CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a medical corpsman with an assault rifle platoon, attached to the 1st Battalion, 22d Marines, 6th Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Chain, 8 June 1945. Quick to spot a wounded marine lying in an open field beyond the front lines following the relentless assault against a strategic Japanese hill position, Lester unhesitatingly crawled toward the casualty under a concentrated barrage from hostile machine guns, rifles, and grenades. Torn by enemy rifle bullets as he inched forward, he stoically disregarded the mounting fury of Japanese fire and his own pain to pull the wounded man toward a covered position. Struck by enemy fire a second time before he reached cover, he exerted tremendous effort and succeeded in pulling his comrade to safety where, too seriously wounded himself to administer aid, he instructed two of his squad in proper medical treatment of the rescued marine. Realizing that his own wounds were fatal, he staunchly refused medical attention for himself and, gathering his fast-waning strength with calm determination, coolly and expertly directed his men in the treatment of two other wounded marines, succumbing shortly thereafter. Completely selfless in his concern for the welfare of his fighting comrades, Lester, by his indomitable spirit, outstanding valor, and competent direction of others, had saved the life of one who otherwise must have perished, and had contributed to the safety of countless others. Lester's fortitude in the face of certain death sustains and enhances the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

## ROBERT MILLER MCTUREOUS JR.



BORN: MARCH 26, 1924, ALTOONA, LAKE COUNTY, FL

RANK: PRIVATE

UNIT/COMMAND: COMPANY H, 3D BATTALION, 29TH MARINES, 6TH MARINE DIVISION

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: JUNE 7, 1945

DIED: JUNE 11, 1945, ABOARD THE HOSPITAL SHIP U.S.S. RELIEF, AT SEA, PACIFIC OCEAN

### CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 3d Battalion, 29th Marines, 6th Marine Division, during action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa in the Ryukyu Chain, 7 June 1945. Alert and ready for any hostile counteraction following his company's seizure of an important hill objective, Pvt. McTureous was quick to observe the plight of company stretcher bearers who were suddenly assailed by slashing machine-gun fire as they attempted to evacuate wounded at the rear of the newly won position. Determined to prevent further casualties, he quickly filled his jacket with hand grenades and charged the enemy-occupied caves from which the concentrated barrage was emanating. Coolly disregarding all personal danger as he waged his furious one-man assault, he smashed grenades into the cave entrances, thereby diverting the heaviest fire from the stretcher bearers to his own person and, resolutely returning to his own lines under a blanketing hail of rifle and machine-gun fire to replenish his supply of grenades, dauntlessly continued his systematic reduction of Japanese strength until he himself sustained serious wounds after silencing a large number of the hostile guns. Aware of his own critical condition and unwilling to further endanger the lives of his comrades, he stoically crawled a distance of 200 yards to a sheltered position within friendly lines before calling for aid. By his fearless initiative and bold tactics, Pvt. McTureous had succeeded in neutralizing the enemy fire, killing six Japanese troops, and effectively disorganizing the remainder of the savagely defended garrison. His outstanding valor and heroic spirit of self-sacrifice during a critical stage of operations reflect the highest credit upon himself and the U.S. Naval Service.

## ALBERT ERNEST SCHWAB



BORN: JULY 17, 1920, WASHINGTON, DC

RANK: PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

UNIT/COMMAND: HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES, 1ST MARINE DIVISION

MEDAL OF HONOR ACTION DATE: MAY 7, 1945

DIED: MAY 7, 1945, OKINAWA SHIMA, RYUKYU ISLANDS

### CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a flamethrower operator in action against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu Islands, 7 May 1945. Quick to take action when his company was pinned down in a valley and suffered resultant heavy casualties under blanketing machine-gun fire emanating from a high ridge to the front, Pfc. Schwab, unable to flank the enemy emplacement because of steep cliffs on either side, advanced up the face of the ridge in bold defiance of the intense barrage and, skillfully directing the fire of his flamethrower, quickly demolished the hostile gun position, thereby enabling his company to occupy the ridge. Suddenly a second enemy machine gun opened fire, killing and wounding several marines with its initial bursts. Estimating with split-second decision the tactical difficulties confronting his comrades, Pfc. Schwab elected to continue his one-man assault despite a diminished supply of fuel for his flamethrower. Cool and indomitable, he moved forward in the face of a direct concentration of hostile fire, relentlessly closed with the enemy position, and attacked. Although severely wounded by a final vicious blast from the enemy weapon, Pfc. Schwab had succeeded in destroying two highly strategic Japanese gun positions during a critical stage of the operation and, by his dauntless, singlehanded efforts, had materially furthered the advance of his company. His aggressive initiative, outstanding valor, and professional skill throughout the bitter conflict sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.