

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to the

THIRD MARINES, REINFORCED,
serving as the THIRD COMBAT TEAM, THIRD MARINE DIVISION,

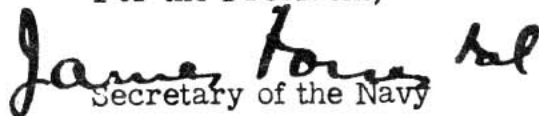
consisting of: Third Marine Regiment; Second Battalion, Ninth Regiment; Company "C", Third Tank Battalion; Company "C", Nineteenth Marine Regiment (Combat Engineers), and Third Band Section

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces during the invasion and recapture of Guam, Marianas Islands, from July 21 to August 10, 1944. Crossing a 400-yard reef under frontal and flanking fire from strongly defended positions on dominating terrain, the THIRD Marine Regiment (Reinforced), serving as the THIRD Combat Team, assaulted the steep slopes of the objectives and by evening had captured Adelupe Point and Chonito Cliff. With no reserve available to be committed in their zone of action during the ensuing eight days, the gallant officers and men of this team fought their way forward through a maze of hostile caves and pillboxes and over rugged terrain to secure Fonte Canyon and the northeastern slopes of Fonte Ridge despite constant mortar, machine-gun, small-arms and artillery fire which blasted all echelons, shore party and lines of communication and supply. Seriously depleted by heavy casualties, including two battalion commanders, the THIRD Combat Team was continually in action as the left assault regiment until the cessation of organized resistance and the securing of the island on August 10, after twenty-one days of furious combat. By their effective teamwork, aggressive fighting spirit and individual acts of heroism and daring, the men of the THIRD Combat Team achieved an illustrious record of courage and skill, in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,


Secretary of the Navy