

Ethel Frazee

8-31-61

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UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
HEADQUARTERS, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC
APO, SAN FRANCISCO 96310

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting a gold star in lieu of the second BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

CORPORAL GEORGE J. PHILLIPS

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For heroic achievement in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam while serving as an Antitank Assault Section Leader with Company M, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division. On 8 November 1967, during Operation Essex, Company M established contact with a well entrenched force of North Vietnamese Army Regulars in Quang Nam Province. During the ensuing fire fight, the Marines sustained several casualties, including Corporal PHILLIPS' platoon commander. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Corporal PHILLIPS unhesitatingly assumed command of the Marines in his immediate area and skillfully established a defensive perimeter. With complete disregard for his own safety, he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire to reorganize his unit and to deliver accurate 3.5 inch rocket fire against the hostile force. Fearlessly moving across the hazardous terrain from one position to another, he directed a heavy volume of suppressive fire and assisted in moving injured Marines to positions of relative safety. Although painfully wounded in the head, he ignored his injury and continued to control his unit throughout the fire fight, steadfastly refusing medical aid until all other casualties had been treated. His aggressive fighting spirit and calm presence of mind in the face of extreme personal danger were an inspiration to all who observed him and contributed significantly to the accomplishment of his unit's mission. Corporal PHILLIPS' superb leadership, bold initiative and unflinching devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

Corporal PHILLIPS is authorized to wear the Combat "V".

FOR THE PRESIDENT,

V. M. KIVELAK
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC

ENCLOSURE (1)