



DECOMMISSIONING CEREMONY

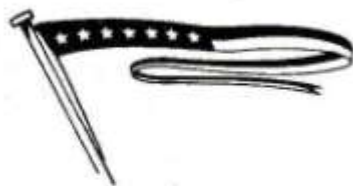
*United States Ship OUELLET
Fast Frigate 1077*

August 6, 1993

**Naval Station
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii**

COMMISSIONING PENNANT

(International symbol of a ship of war)



DISESTABLISHMENT CEREMONY

Each unit of the Navy holds two unique ceremonies during the course of its existence. The commissioning ceremony bearing the promise for a bright future, and the decommissioning ceremony, signifying the end of an era, honoring all of the men and women who have given their time, their energy, and, for some, their lives, to fulfill and surpass the aspirations of those who stood in the commissioning ceremony. Custom has established that this ceremony be formal and impressive - a solemn occasion on which we pause to reflect upon the rich heritage of this ship, her namesake, and the United States Navy.



CDR. ALBERT HENRY, COMMISSIONING COMMANDING OFFICER, ESCORTS MR. & MRS. CHESTER OUELLET DURING THE COMMISSIONING CEREMONY.



David G. Ouellet

Seaman, United States Navy

1944-1967

David George Ouellet was born in Newton, Massachusetts, on June 13, 1944, son of Chester J. and Elizabeth E. Ouellet. He graduated from Hardy School in Wellesley and in 1958 attended Wellesley Junior High School. He subsequently was employed by the Alfred Fisher Trucking Company of Wellesley. On July 28, 1964, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy at Boston, Massachusetts, and entered recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. Completing his training in October 1964, he joined Assault Craft Division TWELVE, and while attached to that division served in Vietnam for five months in 1965.

From June through August 1966, SN Ouellet attended river patrol boat training at the Naval Schools Command, Vallejo, California. Follow on training was at the Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado, California. On September 21, 1966, he reported for duty with River Squadron FIVE where he was attached to My Tho Detachment 532 at the time of his death on March 6, 1967. He was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroic action on the Mekong River. He was also awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in enemy action.



SHIP'S INSIGNIA

The 22 stars represent the age of Seaman Ouellet at the time he was killed in action in Vietnam. The white stars on a blue field represent the Congressional Medal of Honor which was awarded to him posthumously. The white stripes indicate Seaman Ouellet's rate.

THE HISTORY OF USS OUELLET

USS OUELLET (FF-1077) is the first ship of the United States Navy to bear the name of Seaman David George Ouellet. It is a Knox Class Frigate specifically designed to locate and destroy enemy submarines. OUELLET's keel was laid at Avondale Shipyard Incorporated in Westwego, Louisiana on January 15, 1969. She was commissioned at Charleston Naval Shipyard, South Carolina, on December 12, 1970.

OUELLET arrived at her homeport in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on April 15, 1971, with her first deployment to the Western Pacific commencing on January 27, 1972. OUELLET twice came under hostile fire during this deployment, however, no casualties were sustained. OUELLET's gun accurately fired thousands of rounds against enemy positions in North Vietnam.

During ceremonies re-establishing the U. S. Third Fleet on February 1, 1973, USS OUELLET became the first Third Fleet flagship since World War II.

USS OUELLET made her second deployment to the Western Pacific from May through September 1973. She began her first regular overhaul September 14, 1974, with completion on June 3, 1975. OUELLET was selected as the CINCPACFLT flagship for the U. S. Navy's 200th birthday ceremonies. OUELLET completed two more Western Pacific deployments prior to overhaul in late 1978. Regular overhaul was completed mid 1979 with three Western Pacific deployments to follow commencing September 1980, April 1982, and October 1983 respectively.

OUELLET began her third major overhaul in February 1985. She received extensive upgrades to her gun mount, CIWS, and SNAP II computers. In 1986 OUELLET was again preparing for a Western Pacific deployment. OUELLET deployed for her eighth time in April 1987. This deployment took her with Battle Group Delta to the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Oman for the Iran crisis. She returned to Pearl Harbor on October 5, 1987.

OUELLET made her ninth deployment in mid-December 1988, returning May 1989 and departing again September 1989 for Pacific Exercises 1989. Upon return to Pearl Harbor in November 1989, she went into drydock, refloating in February 1990. After extensive preparations and an exhaustive inspection cycle, OUELLET departed in August 1990 to Central America in support of Law Enforcement Operations during which she transited the Panama Canal. After returning in November 1990, OUELLET was awarded the Battle "E" for overall excellence, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Citation. In June 1991, OUELLET participated in Pacific Training of Midshipmen 1991, I, II and III and Anti-Submarine Operations 1991. OUELLET made her tenth deployment to various South Pacific islands, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, Korea, and Australia to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Coral Sea, from 25 March - 24 July 1992. From 22 January - 26 February 1993, OUELLET made her final deployment to San Francisco, CA, and Everett, WA, and participated in a CNO project in Nanoose Harbor, Canada.

OUELLET is now proudly displaying the Battle Efficiency "E" Award and all departmental awards for consistent superior performance during the last competitive cycle (Dec '90 - Dec '92). She decommissions a winner!

SHIP'S CHARACTERISTICS

Displacement	4100 Tons (full load)
Overall Length	438 Feet
Beam	46 Feet 9 Inches
Navigational Draft(depth)	24 Feet 9 Inches
Speed	In excess of 29 knots
Propulsion	Two 1275 PSI Boilers, 35, 000 Shaft HP, Single Screw
Armament	One 5"/54 Caliber Gun, One ASROC Launcher, Harpoon Missile System, Four MK-32 Torpedo Tubes, One CIWS
Sonar	AN/SQS26-CX, AN/SQR-18 A(V)2 CATAS

Ship's sponsor: Mrs. Chester J. Ouellet

10 March 1987

Mr. & Mrs. Chester J. Ouellet
3 Lake Road
Wellesley, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Ouellet:

It is with the deepest sympathy that I write you in this time of sorrow concerning the death of your son David. I hope you will accept my condolences. David lost his life in a grenade explosion at seven-ten P.M., 6 March. He was the forward gunner of River Patrol Boat (RPB) 124 when the Viet Cong launched a grenade at his boat. Only David saw the grenade coming toward the boat and he quickly recognized that it would land in the after part of the boat where three men were positioned. He could have remained in his enclosed position forward and been safe; however, he chose the brave man's course of action. He ran aft, warned his shipmates of the impending danger and attempted to throw the grenade overboard. The grenade exploded as he reached it. David was taken by helicopter to a hospital where he was given immediate medical attention, but he succumbed to his wounds at nine-thirty P.M.

David gave everything he could for his fellow men and there is no doubt that he saved three of them from certain injury and probably death. During his six weeks that I knew him, he served his country well and was always an example of courage to his shipmates. A memorial mass was conducted by Father de Guire of the U. S. 9th Infantry Division at three P.M., 7 March. Your son's personal effects have been inventoried and you should receive them within the month. If there are any questions you may have or any assistance that I might offer, please do not hesitate to write me, and I will do what I can.

Words will never fill the loss you feel at this time, but I hope you are comforted to know that your son was a brave man, a credit to the Navy and his country, and a son of whom every one may be very proud.

Sincerely,

James A. Lindsay
James A. Lindsay

Navy to Name Ship After Wellesley Hero

WELLESLEY — Seaman David G. Ouellet, who received the Medal of Honor posthumously Jan. 30 for valor in Vietnam, will be further honored by the Navy.

In a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester J. Ouellet of 3 Lake rd., Sec. of the Navy Paul S. Ignatius said a new ship will be named after their son.

"The Navy has chosen the name 'Ouellet' for the Navy's new escort ship DE 1077 in honor of your courageous son. His example of great courage and devotion to duty is an inspiring heritage which all who sail in this ship will treasure as they, too, serve America and freedom."

The ship is now under construction at Westwego, La., and is scheduled to be

completed sometime in 1989, Ignatius wrote.

"May I express to you again the Navy's great pride in your son's important service to our country," Ignatius concluded.

Ouellet, the second Navy man to receive the nation's highest honor in Vietnam, was killed in action Mar. 6, 1967.

A forward machine gunner on a river patrol boat in the Mekong Delta, Ouellet saw an enemy grenade fall aboard. He ran the length of the boat, shouting for his shipmates to take cover, then threw himself between the captain and grenade, absorbing the full blast.

The medal, presented by Ignatius, was received by his parents as three brothers, five sisters and several members of the patrol boat crew watched.



USS OUELLET (FF 1077) COMMANDING OFFICERS

"There is not an instant during his tour of duty as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility . . . It is a duty which most richly deserves the highest, time honored title of the seafaring world - "CAPTAIN""

- Joseph Conrad



Commander A.L. Henry Jr.	December 1970 - August 1972
Commander J.F. Baumgardner	August 1972 - October 1973
Commander D.C. Richardson	October 1973 - June 1975
Commander J.S. Ekstrom	June 1975 - July 1977
Commander D.S. Read	July 1977 - December 1978
Commander N. Paleologos	December 1978 - October 1980
Commander J.G. Bloomer	October 1980 - September 1982
Commander I. Larguier Jr.	September 1982 - January 1985
Commander L.G. Eggleston	January 1985 - April 1987
Commander J.R. Almony	April 1987 - July 1989
Commander G.B. Allison	July 1989 - September 1991
Captain A.Y. Watt Jr.	September 1991 - August 1993

REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM ANDREW RETZ UNITED STATES NAVY



Rear Admiral Retz was born in Blauvelt, New York and attended the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque as an NROTC Scholarship student. President of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity and Commander of the Brigade of Midshipmen, he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and was commissioned in June 1963. He later earned a Master of Science degree from George Washington University.

Rear Admiral Retz' first assignment was as Main Propulsion Officer in USS TAYLOR (DD 468), in which he made three Western Pacific deployments. Subsequent at-sea assignments included duty as Operations Officer, USS BORIE (DD 704), assignment with the River Patrol Forces (TF 116) in Vietnam; Executive Officer, USS AINSWORTH (FF 1090), and Commanding Officer USS STUMP (DD 978). The highlight of Rear Admiral Retz' sea duty was as Commander, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-TWO. Throughout these tours Rear Admiral Retz served in the Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean Theaters, involved in such incidents as the 1973 Middle-East crisis; Operation GAME WARDEN in Vietnam; and the hostage crisis off Beirut. While in command of Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-TWO, he was deeply involved in TOMAHAWK cruise missile tests in addition to Battle Group Operations.

His shore duty has included tours as student, Cruiser-Destroyer Force Engineering School and Naval Destroyer School (graduating both with distinction); Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island; and Placement Officer, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, DC.

Additionally, Rear Admiral Retz has served several staff tours, including duty as Company Officer and Performance Officer, U.S. Naval Academy; Flag Secretary and Aide to Commander, Amphibious Group TWO; Deputy Director, Surface Warfare Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (Surface Warfare); Head, Officer Community Management Section and Deputy Director, Military Personnel Policy Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Manpower, Personnel and Training); and Executive Assistant to the Chief of Naval Personnel.

Rear Admiral Retz assumed duties as Deputy Director for Operations, United States Central Command in September 1987. His responsibilities encompassed Persian Gulf operations, including EARNEST WILL escort operations as well as Operations NIMBLE ARCHER and PRAYING MANTIS, which were U.S. retaliatory strikes during the Iran/Iraq War. He completed this tour in the spring of 1989 and attended the National Defense University Capstone course enroute to his first flag assignment as Director, Total Force Programming/Manpower Division (OP 12). Subsequently, he was assigned as Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for Military Personnel Policy and Career Progression (PERS 2). Rear Admiral Retz assumed command of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific and Naval Base, Pearl Harbor in July 1992.

Rear Admiral Retz awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with two Gold Stars), Bronze Star (with Combat "V"), Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal (with Gold Star), Navy Commendation Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation and various campaign and service awards.

Rear Admiral Retz and his wife Julia reside in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. They have five grown children on the mainland.

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

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ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

* * * *

NATIONAL ANTHEM

* * * *

INVOCATION

Lieutenant Craig G. Muehler, CHC, USN

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**WELCOMING REMARKS AND
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER**

Captain Alexander Y. Watt Jr., USN
Commanding Officer

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PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

Rear Admiral William A. Retz, USN
Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific/
Naval Base, Pearl Harbor

REMARKS

Ouellet Family Member

* * * *

REMARKS

Captain Alexander Y. Watt Jr., USN
Commanding Officer

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**CREW MARCH OFF,
CEREMONIAL HAULING DOWN OF
COMMISSIONING PENNANT
AND COLORS**

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SECURE THE WATCH

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BENEDICTION

Lieutenant Craig G. Muehler, CHC, USN

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DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY

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MUSICAL SELECTIONS



FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICERS

DC1(SW) Steven M. Andrushko
 OS1(SW) David R. Arend
 MS1 Rodolfo M. Badan
 EM1(SW) Edwin B. Bautista
 SK1 Terrell Bell
 IC1(SW) Howard F. Broner
 EM1 Allan A. Cabubat
 MM1 Kenny L. Cain
 MR1(SW) Michael G. Camasso
 RM1(SW) Scott Colbert
 FC1(SW) Thomas W. Davis
 MM1 Jon E. Felie
 EN1(SW) Jesus Flies
 MM1 Austin K. Gandy
 BM1(SW) Luis J. Gaytan
 BT1(SW) Fred B. Grier
 OS1(SW) Howard D. Hall
 STG1 Thomas R. Hanavan
 GMG1(SW) David G. Heringa

MM1 Robert M. Jarrett
 OS1(SW) Carnell Jones
 SM1 Timothy W. Koehn
 STG1(SW) Randall J. Kostka
 DK1(SW) Edward W. Lebeaux
 HT1(SW) Julius C. Lowe
 STG1(SW) Perry L. Lucky
 FC1(SW) Michael A. Lunsford
 MS1 Elmer G. Manarang
 BT1 Michael A. Means
 HT1(SW) Bob Parker
 YN1(AW) Bennie O. Pearce
 SK1 John G. Robelia
 EM1 Rogelio R. Rosal
 QM1(SW) Jonathan W. Thurston
 TM1(SW) Verdean Todakonzie
 OS1(SW) George A. Uram
 FC1 Louis G. Viancsin
 SH1(SW) Adrain K. Webb



SECOND CLASS PETTY OFFICERS

FC2(SW) Lance G. Batchelder
 YN2(AW) Ty R. Beach
 BT2 Robert G. Belknap
 ET2(SW) Kenneth R. Belkofer
 HT2 Perry J. Benn
 MM2(SW) Pollard Boykin
 STG2(SW) James M. Brewer
 RM2(SS) Leon M. Burke
 BT2(SW) Shawn L. Callo
 SH2 Pedro D. Canabal
 OS2 Earl J. Carrol
 MM2 Eric G. Dunn
 MM2 William R. Fox
 OS2 Duane D. Fuller
 OS2 John P. Gagne
 GMG2(SW) Timothy D. Gorny
 SK2(SW) Anthony C. Graff
 MM2 Mark A. Gwincer
 MS2 Stephen P. Hamilton
 STG2 Eddie L. Hildebrand
 STG2 Thomas P. Hobart
 MM2 Gary L. Howard
 STG2 Keith A. Klipfel

BT2(SW) Aukustino L. Lemalu
 SK2(SW) Evan B. Lewis
 MM2 Todd L. Lundstrom
 EW2(SW) Cecil L. Moege
 ET2(SW) Anthony Monkus
 ET2(SW) Joseph A. Moore
 BT2 Vincent P. Moore
 RM2(SW) Lawrence Mora
 OS2 John J. Mountz
 ET2(SW) Roberto Ortiz
 MS2 Siasoi Saifoloi
 FC2(SW) Christopher R. Sandlin
 TM2(SW) Simon Sarpy
 IC2 Steven A. Schoen
 FC2 Shawn Schroeder
 BT2 Joseph S. Solaita
 MM2 Gregory A. Stafford
 OS2(SW) Jason W. Starmer
 STG2 Richard W. Susie
 OS2 Sapini S. Teo
 MS2 Gregory S. Wagoner
 STG2 Kurt F. Walz
 MS2 Paul E. Warren
 FC2 David A. Zimmerman



THIRD CLASS PETTY OFFICERS

SM3 Malaki Alaipalelei
 BT3 Manuel D. Arangovillareal
 BT3 Celso F. Arcenal
 DK3 Ariel D. Armat
 ET3(SW) Troy A. Arner
 EN3 Don M. Asahan
 EM3 Noel S. Babadilla
 YN3 Leo A. Bazar
 BM3 Shawn M. Bicknell
 STG3 Daniel H. Biser
 BT3 Sean L. Bjordahl
 FC3 Ashton M. Brown
 BM3 Stephen W. Bryan
 MM3 Rocky H. Buice
 STG3 Scott K. Cadman
 IC3 Steven J. Cashman
 IC3 Daniel E. Cassani
 ET3(SW) Todd A. Colby
 BT3 Anthony L. Derbovanesian
 MM3 Gid Dyché
 STG3 John J. Enriquez
 DC3 Andrew G. Estrada
 GMG3 Robert Y. Foster
 GMM3 Arron W. Gleason
 QM3 Juan A. Gonzalez
 OS3 Thomas D. Green
 MM3 Marcus W. Griffin
 STG3 Laurence A. Harvey
 BT3 Javier Hernandez
 EW3(SW) Matthew A. Herschleb
 MM3 Bradley S. Hood
 GMG3 Jefferson R. Hunter
 SH3 Christopher P. Hutton
 STG3 James P. Irwin
 HN Damian J. Lovello

PC3 Christopher Jambois
 FC3 John S. Lyon
 EM3 Jeffery G. Mattson
 GMM3 Michael E. McGinn
 MM3 Joel Mendoza
 OS3 Joseph P. Meyer
 GMG3 Troy G. Miller
 FC3 Brian E. Milton
 BT3 Harold D. Morgan
 BT3 Wesley D. Mortimer
 STG3 Kevin R. Mould
 EM3 Bernard D. Philbrook
 MM3 Shane A. Price
 BM3 Robin W. Richardson
 GMM3 Alejandro A. Rodriguez
 OS3 Kevin J. Rogers
 BT3 Brian C. Roller
 DC3 Anthony J. Romie
 STG3(SW) Gregory Sanders
 MM3 Alan B. Schiffner
 ET3 Andrew J. Schmidt
 BT3 Tim M. Smith
 BT3 Jason E. Steele
 RM3 Daryl K. Stoops
 BT3 Donald J. Stuart
 STG3 Sherman J. Thibodeaux
 MM3 Troy D. Townsend
 BT3 Jason A. Villebrun
 STG3 Gregory F. Wahlmeier
 STG3 Randal J. Weaver
 RM3 Collin K. West
 BM3 Michael J. Whyte
 EW3(SW) Michael L. Wilfong
 ET3 Nathan R. Windle
 BM3 Timothy J. Yocum



FUTURE PETTY OFFICERS

OSSR Tony G. Ashby
 FA Nolan J. Bergeron
 SN Christopher A. Brandt
 PNSN John J. Christie
 MSSN Kevin Crump
 EWSN Chase E. Darby
 ICFN Vincent D. Deckard
 RMSN John A. Dickerson
 SA Dedrick D. Diggs
 SA Mark W. Dills
 FN Christian M. Dreyfuss
 RMSR Brett A. Felker
 OSSR Donald L. Foster
 SN Jamie E. Frisk
 RMSN Jeremy A. Gilrane
 SMSN Robert M. Gray
 MSSN Gregory I. Hanay
 SR Quatrell Hardman
 QMSA Joshua T. Kitto

QMSN Michael S. Levenbaum
 BTFN Charles A. McCoy
 FA Rodney E. McGeachy
 DCFN Danny J. McGinn
 OSSN Darin E. Murph
 SN Wayne A. Myers
 FN Kirk A. Overturf
 SN William H. Penn
 MSSN Ralph A. Peppers
 RMSA Christopher G. Schaefgen
 SN Wayne A. Shipman
 SHSN James P. Sisk
 BMSN Lonnie M. Sparrow
 EWSN Jason J. St. Peter
 DCFN Mark E. Vankoughnet
 SA Francis V. Weaver
 ICFN Derrick L. Williams
 DCFN John L. Williamson
 BMSN Rogelio A. Ybarra



HSL-37

Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 37 (HSL-37) is based at Naval Air Station, Barbers Point, Hawaii. HSL-37 operates the SH-2F "Seasprite MK I" and SH-60B "Seahawk MK III" helicopters. The mission of the "EASYRIDERS" is to provide highly trained, combat-ready LAMPS detachments to the ships of the Pacific Fleet Surface Force. These helicopters greatly enhance the ship's ability to conduct Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare.

During OUELLET's final WESTPAC cruise from March to July 1992, the following members of HSL-37 formed our proud Air Department:

LT Kent S. Leonard
 LT Daryl W. Nelson
 AT2 Arnulfo G. Alagao
 AE3 David N. Cox
 AW2 John A. Knolla
 AA Jamison A. Willoughby

LT Eugene M. Monasterio
 AEC Bryan E. Schley
 AW3 Kelly E. Aldritt
 AMH1 Darren Frazier
 AD1 Joseph F. Radeker, Jr.

LT Laurence E. Hansen
 AT1 Gregory J. Ferguson
 AMSAN Pemerika F. Amuimuia
 AZ2 Alvino R. Garcia
 AEAN Roman G. Steward



This page is dedicated to the unique and happy memories of LT Daryl W. Nelson and AW3 Kelly E. Aldritt, who were recently lost at sea in the Persian Gulf, March 1993, along with LCDR Lyle M. Hansemann. May they rest in peace.



The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor posthumously to

David G. Ouellet
Seaman
United States Navy

for service as set forth in the following

Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with River Section 532, in combat against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. As the forward machine gunner on River Patrol Boat (PBR) 124, which was on patrol on the Mekong River during the early evening hours of 6 March 1967, Seaman Ouellet observed suspicious activity near the river bank, alerted his Boat Captain, and recommended movement of the boat to the area to investigate. While the PBR was making a high-speed run along the river bank, Seaman Ouellet spotted an incoming enemy grenade falling toward the boat. He immediately left the protected position of his gun mount and ran aft for the full length of the speeding boat, shouting to his fellow crewmembers to take cover. Observing the Boat Captain standing unprotected on the boat, Seaman Ouellet bounded onto the engine compartment cover, and pushed the Boat Captain down to safety. In the split second that followed the grenade's landing, and in the face of certain death, Seaman Ouellet fearlessly placed himself between the deadly missile and his shipmates, courageously absorbing most of the blast fragments with his own body in order to protect his shipmates from injury and death. His extraordinary heroism and his selfless and courageous actions on behalf of his comrades at the expense of his own life were in the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

- L. B. Johnson





A WINNING CREW GOING OUT IN STYLE



ME KE ALOHA PAU OLE A HUI HOU.
(With everlasting love and affection until we meet again.)