

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
FPO SAN FRANCISCO 96610

In the name of the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet takes pleasure in awarding the Silver Star Medal to

Ensign Edward Gene MARSYLA
United States Naval Reserve

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while flying as co-pilot, serving in a detachment of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron SIX, temporarily embarked in the USS INTREPID (CVS 11), from 12 October to 16 October 1966. Ensign MARSYLA and his helicopter crew were vectored to an inland area of North Vietnam on two separate search and rescue flights in valiant attempts to rescue a downed Navy pilot. On each of the two flights severe enemy ground fire was encountered while making determined searches for the survivor. Ensign MARSYLA and his helicopter crew persisted in their attempts to locate and rescue the survivor, braving intense enemy ground fire on numerous occasions. During the second search, the helicopter while in a hover was riddled by enemy automatic weapons fire which completely disabled one of its engines. Displaying exceptional skill and airmanship Ensign MARSYLA and his crew flew the aircraft out of range of the enemy's guns and retired toward the sea. As the helicopter neared the heavily fortified coastline, a barrage of accurate enemy 37MM and 57MM anti-aircraft fire inflicted additional heavy damage to the already crippled helicopter and wounded all personnel. Despite painful wounds and severe damage to the control system of the aircraft, Ensign MARSYLA and his crew tenaciously nursed their helicopter through the enemy fire toward a United States destroyer, approximately 15 miles from the enemy coastline. As Ensign MARSYLA and his crew neared the destroyer, the damage inflicted by the enemy caused the helicopter to lose complete directional control. He then skillfully assisted in ditching the aircraft in an upright position thereby preventing further injury to all personnel on board. The aircraft sank shortly after all personnel had been successfully evacuated. By his daring action, exceptional skill, and loyal devotion to duty Ensign MARSYLA upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."


ROY L. JOHNSON
Admiral, U. S. Navy