

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Commendation Medal to

FRANK ROBERT HANDY  
SEAMAN  
UNITED STATES NAVY

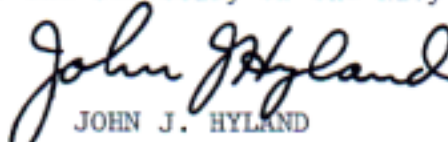
for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION

"For heroic achievement while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the Communist insurgent forces on the Upper Cong Tranh River, Rung Sat Special Zone, Republic of Vietnam on 8 January 1968. Just prior to commencing a test firing run on a specified strike zone, River Patrol Boat 738 sustained a rocket hit on the after 50 caliber mount, rendering it useless. The hit wounded nine personnel on both boats, which were in close proximity to each other. Although having sustained multiple fragmentation wounds of the head, back and left arm, Seaman HANDY immediately manned the after 50 caliber mount of River Patrol Boat 737 and fired 100 rounds into the Viet Cong emplacement. With complete disregard for his own wounds and safety, he reloaded his gun and delivered another 100 rounds of accurate fire into the enemy position. Because neither of the forward gun mounts could be brought to bear on the target, the after gun mount on River Patrol Boat 738 rendered useless, Seaman HANDY's instantaneous return of heavy and accurate fire was singularly responsible for the immediate suppression of Viet Cong fire. His prompt actions enabled the boats to clear the area with no further personnel or material casualties. Seaman HANDY's quick response, skill, sense of responsibility and courage under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Seaman HANDY is authorized to wear the Combat "V".

For the Secretary of the Navy

  
JOHN J. HYLAND  
Admiral, U. S. Navy

Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet



Dear Larry

The Citation is correct but it fails to mention that this test firing run was manned with only two personnel that knew the rivers in the Rung Sat Special Zone, David R Pribnow 1<sup>st</sup> class Boatswains Mate, Boat Captain and crew member Seaman Frank R Handy . The incident, as explained in the citation does not record that during the initial blast I was knocked unconscious and was awakened looking at the muddy water on the rear starboard side of PBR 737 holding onto the handle of the rear 50 caliber machine gun. Then after the fire fight LT Stubbs or Sprague, don't recall his last name, and Pribnow decided to transfer the wounded personnel to Patrol Boat 738 – the fast PBR. My head was exploding and I was getting on PBR 738 and Pribnow said, not you Handy you are in command of PBR 737 get it back to base at Nha Be. My Back, Back of Head , Arms were riddled with Shrapnel and my head was exploding. I turned and PBR 738 was gone and I had a LTjg with a hole in his leg suffering from shell shock manning the radio, a Second Class, a Third Class Gunners mate and a Third class Engineman by the name of Smyth as my crew. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Class was not in agreement with a Seaman being in charge and he yanked me out of the Coxwains Cabin and said I'm taking over. My head was exploding so I let him take over without much resistance but I told him I would lead him out of the tributary and on the Mekong and back to the base at Nha Be but he refused to go into the inlet and followed the map that would add an extra 4 hours to our return to the base. He said no way am I going into that small inlet barely the width of two PBR's. Smyth accidentally fired the M79 grenade launcher and I opened fire with the aft 50 Cal firing in the direction of the explosion. Smyth then tapped me on the shoulder and told me he had fired accidentally. During our long way around about 15 minutes after our discourse a helicopter came overhead and told us to turn around and lead us back to the inlet that I tried to talk the 2<sup>nd</sup> class into taking. I then advised the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class to pull into the Medivac location as I wanted to get off the PBR and get medivaced. As we approached Pribnow yelled Dam it Handy, I put you in charge get that dam boat back to Nha Be. I was now pissed I yanked the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class out of the Coxwains Cabin and drove the boat back to Nha Be. I told the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class that if he tried any more bullshit that I would shoot him and pulled a 45 cal pistol. He said he would not try any thing and that he was sorry. The trip took about an hour and fifteen minutes and twice I could not see anything but bright light and once I hit my head as I was going down and was awakened by the pain. As we arrived at Nha Be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Class begged me to please let him manuever the PBR in that he needed the practice tying up with fast currents. I let him pilot the PBR 737 onto the dock and I was helped to the Sick Bay by James C Fox. I met Pribnow at Sick Bay and He apologized saying I'm sorry Handy I did not know you were wounded. The Lt, Stubbs said good job Handy and the doc pulled Shrapnel from my head and said I can't get the deeper stuff but your body will absorb it . You are one tuff son of a bitch. The lights went out after. That is what the citation is missing.


Maybe some one else will remember that or part of the actual incident. Thanks Larry I appreciate your help. PS, I was assigned to Riv Sec 543 when I got in country and then to River Section 524 December 21,1967 of which I was a Plank Owner. We were deployed to My Tho around mid part of January 1968. We then deployed to Sa Dec a couple of months after that and I was in River Section 524 Until I left Vietnam Late May 1968 ..

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD  
SAFEGUARD IT.

|   |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|---|---|--|
| PERSONAL DATA   | 1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME<br><b>HANDY, FRANK ROBERT</b>  |   | 2. SERVICE NUMBER<br>[REDACTED]  |   | 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER<br>[REDACTED]   |   |   |  |
|   | 4. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS<br><b>NAVY-USN</b>  |   | 5a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK<br><b>SN</b>   | 6. PAY GRADE<br><b>E</b>  | 7. DATE OF RANK<br>DAY: <b>16</b> MONTH: <b>FEB</b> YEAR: <b>66</b>   |   |   |  |
|   | 8. U. S. CITIZEN<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO  | 9. PLACE OF BIRTH (City and State or Country)<br><b>DOMINA, TEXAS</b> |  | 10. DATE OF BIRTH<br>DAY: <b>13</b> MONTH: <b>JUL</b> YEAR: <b>47</b> |   |   |   |  |
| SELECTIVE SERVICE DATA  | 11a. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER<br><b>NONE</b>   |   | 11b. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER, CITY, COUNTY, STATE AND ZIP CODE<br>-   |   |   | 11c. DATE INDUCTED<br>DAY: MONTH: YEAR: <b>NA</b> |   |  |
|   | 12a. TYPE OF TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE<br><b>RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY AND TRANSFERRED TO NAVAL RESERVE</b>  |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
| TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE DATA  | 12b. REASON AND AUTHORITY<br><b>Supers Manual, Art. C-10317(1)(b)209 release from active duty within three months of expiration of USN contract and concurrent transfer to Naval Reserve</b> |   | 12c. STATION OR INSTALLATION AT WHICH EFFECTED<br><b>U.S. NAVAL STATION, TI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94130</b>   |   | 12d. EFFECTIVE DATE<br>DAY: <b>26</b> MONTH: <b>JUN</b> YEAR: <b>68</b>   |   |   |  |
|   | 13. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND<br><b>RIVRON 5</b>  |   | 13a. CHARACTER OF SERVICE<br><b>HONORABLE</b>  |   | 13b. TYPE OF CERTIFICATE ISSUED<br><b>SEE FEWARKS</b>   |   |   |  |
|   | 14. DISTRICT, AREA COMMAND OR CORPS TO WHICH RESERVIST TRANSFERRED<br><b>NAVAL RESERVE MANPOWER CENTER, BAINBRIDGE, MD. 21905</b>  |   | 15. REENLISTMENT CODE<br><b>RE-1</b>   |   |   |   |   |  |
| SERVICE DATA  | 16. TERMINAL DATE OF RESERVE/UMTS OBLIGATION<br>DAY: <b>18</b> MONTH: <b>JAN</b> YEAR: <b>71</b>   |   | 17. CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE OTHER THAN BY INDUCTION<br>a. SOURCE OF ENTRY:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED (Prior Enlistment) <input type="checkbox"/> ENLISTED (Prior Service) <input type="checkbox"/> REENLISTED<br><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |   | 18. TERM OF SERVICE (Years)<br><b>MIN</b>   |   | 19. DATE OF ENTRY<br>DAY: <b>19</b> MONTH: <b>JAN</b> YEAR: <b>65</b> |  |
|   | 20. PRIOR REGULAR ENLISTMENTS<br><b>NONE</b>   |   | 21. GRADE, RATE OR RANK AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SVC<br><b>SR</b>  |   | 22. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE (City and State)<br><b>DOMINA, TEXAS</b>   |   |   |  |
|   | 23. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE (Home, RFD, City, County, State and ZIP Code)<br><b>DOMINA, TEXAS</b>  |   | 24. STATEMENT OF SERVICE   |   | 25. STATEMENT OF SERVICE  |   |   |  |
|   | 23a. SPECIALTY NUMBER & TITLE<br><b>BM-0100</b>  |   | 23b. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D.O.T. NUMBER<br><b>WATER TRANS. OCCUP'S. 911</b>   |   | 25. STATEMENT OF SERVICE  |   |   |  |
|   |  |   | 26. TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE   |   | 25. STATEMENT OF SERVICE  |   |   |  |
|   |  |   | 27. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE   |   | 25. STATEMENT OF SERVICE  |   |   |  |
|   |  |   | 28. FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE   |   | 25. STATEMENT OF SERVICE  |   |   |  |
| 26. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED<br><b>NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL PURPLE HEART MEDAL<br/>VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL<br/>VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL</b> |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
| 27. EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMPLETED<br><b>BMR<br/>SN<br/>CN</b>  |  |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
| VA AND EMP. SERVICE DATA  | 28a. NON-PAY PERIODS/TIME LOST (Pending Two Years)<br><b>TL: NONE</b>  |   | 28b. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID<br><b>32</b>  |   | 28c. INSURANCE IN FORCE (WGLI or USGLI)<br><input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO  |   | 28d. MONTH ALLOTMENT DISCONTINUED<br><b>NA</b>                        |  |
|   | 29. VA CLAIM NUMBER<br><b>C</b>  |   | 30. VA CLAIM NUMBER<br><b>NA</b>   |   | 29. SERVICEMEN'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> NONE |   |   |  |
| REMARKS   | 31. REMARKS<br><b>HIGH SCHOOL: 2<br/><br/>NO DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE ISSUED AT TIME OF SEPARATION</b>  |   |  |   |   |   |   |  |
|   | 32. PERMANENT ADDRESS FOR MAILING PURPOSES AFTER TRANSFER OR DISCHARGE (Home, RFD, City, County, State and ZIP Code)<br><b>202 W. 5TH STREET<br/>DOMINA, TEXAS</b>                           |   |  |   | 33. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING TRANSFERRED OR DISCHARGED<br><i>Frank Robert Handy</i>  |   |   |  |
| AUTHENTICATION  | 34. TYPE, GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER<br><b>R. T. THEDAL JR., ENS USNR, ASST SEPS<br/>OFF BY DIR OF THE CO</b>  |   |  |   | 35. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SIGN<br><i>[Signature]</i>   |   |   |  |

CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES

ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS RENDER FORM VOID

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1. NAME (Last, first, middle)<br><b>HANDY, FRANK ROBERT</b>                     |  | 2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH<br><b>NAVY-USN</b> | 3. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. (Also, Service Number if applicable)<br> |
| 4. MAILING ADDRESS (Include ZIP Code)<br><b>202 S. 5TH STREET, DONNA, TEXAS</b> |  |  |  |
| 5. ORIGINAL DD FORM 214 IS CORRECTED AS INDICATED BELOW                         |  |  |  |
| ITEM NO.  | CORRECTED TO READ  |  |  |
| 24  | SEPARATION DATE ON DD FORM 214 BEING CORRECTED - <u>26 JUN 68</u><br>DELETE: VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL<br>ADD: NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL WITH COMBAT "V"<br>VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/2 BRONZE STARS<br>COMBAT ACTION RIBBON<br>REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION<br>{GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL COLRO WITH PALM}<br>REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION<br>{CIVIL ACTIONS MEDAL, FIRST CLASS COLOR WITH PALM}<br>***** |  |  |
| 6. DATE<br>N314: PR/sk<br>5 OCT 90  | 7. TYPED NAME, GRADE, TITLE AND SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN<br><i>M. A. Ripberger</i><br>M. A. RIPBERGER, CDR, USN<br>NMPC LIAISON OFFICER, NPRC  |  |  |

DD FORM 215  
1 JUL 79

PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THIS FORM ARE OBSOLETE.

CORRECTION TO DD FORM 214, CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

MEMBER - 1

# Donna Sailor Recuperating

DONNA — Seaman Frank Robert Handy will be coming home next month, bearing scars and memories of the Vietnam war.

On his chest will be two medals—the Navy Commendation Medal for heroism in action and the Purple Heart.

For the past ~~two~~ <sup>weeks</sup>, the sailor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Handy, 202 S. 5th, Donna, has been in the Naval Hospital in Oakland, Calif., recovering from wounds suffered in the battle for which he received the two medals.

According to the citation which accompanied the commendation medal, Seaman Handy was aboard River Patrol Boat 737 on a test firing run on a specified strike zone on the Upper Cong Tranh River in Vietnam when the battle erupted.

An enemy rocket hit the after 50 caliber mount on River Boat 738, rendering it useless and wounding nine sailors aboard this vessel and Seaman Handy's boat on River Boat 733 which was in close proximity.

The citation notes, "Although sustaining multiple fragmentation wounds of the head, back, and left arm, Seaman Handy immediately manned the after 50 caliber mount of his boat and fired 100 rounds into the Viet Cong emplacement.

"With complete disregard for his own wounds and safety he reloaded his gun and delivered another 120 rounds of accurate fire into enemy position. Because neither of the forward

gun mounts could be brought to bear on the target and the after gun on River Patrol Boat 738 was rendered useless, Seaman Handy's instantaneous return of heavy and accurate fire was singularly responsible for immediate suppression of Viet Cong fire.

"His prompt actions enabled the boats to clear the area with no further personnel or material casualties."

Seaman Handy is expected to leave the Oakland hospital early next month arriving home about July 12.

A former student at Donna High School, he entered the Navy in January, 1965. He spent one year in Vietnam, returned to the U. S., and was sent back to Vietnam for another year-long tour of duty in June, 1967.



SEAMAN F. R. HANDY

*Congratulations! Right you are  
for all the work you did for us  
and for all the work you did for us*

