By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I have today awarded

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (NAVY)

FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM TO

USS HARNETT COUNTY (LST-821)

      USS HARNETT COUNTY distinguished herself by extraordinary heroism in actions against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam during the period 12 December 1968 to 30 April 1969. Although landlocked and immobile some twenty-five miles from the sea, and consequently a lucrative target for a resourceful and determined enemy, USS HARNETT COUNTY nonetheless succeeded in providing excellent secondary support to the combat units of the riverine forces involved in one of the most successful river campaigns of the conflict. The ship's performance was superb in every phase of her diverse actions. Supporting both United States and Vietnamese naval units, HARNETT COUNTY provided tactical and naval operations centers that were models of efficiency and materially aided the entire operation of the Vam Co Dong River portion of Operation GIANT SLINGSHOT. Included among the many services which HARNETT COUNTY rendered were those in connection with communications, supply, repair, security, fueling and rearming for helicopter gunships, medical evacuation station, and harassment and interdiction fire. Through her invaluable support efforts, HARNETT COUNTY contributed materially to the success of riverine forces in accounting for numerous enemy casualties and the capture of vital guns and equipment. Despite long dangerous hours, difficult heavy labor under the most trying conditions, night sessions at battle stations while awaiting enemy attack, fierce enemy rocket barrages, personnel and material casualties, and the ever-present danger of mines, the morale and esprit de corps of her officers and men never faltered. Their extraordinary performance and selfless dedication throughout this period were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Richard Nixon