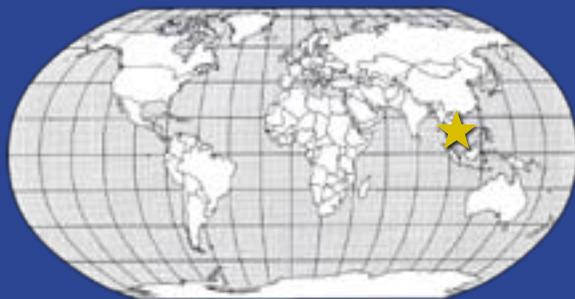




**Norman C. Venzke**

Commander  
Class of 1950



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**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting  
the Legion of Merit (with Combat Distinguishing Device “V”) to  
Commander Norman C. Venzke  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

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For service as set forth in the following Citation:

For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service as Fourth Coastal Zone Advisor, Commander Gulf of Thailand Surveillance Group and Commander Coast Guard Division ELEVEN from 6 April 1967 to 4 April 1968. Under his able and inspiring leadership, Navy and Coast Guard vessels compiled an impressive record in MARKET TIME counter-infiltration operations and in support of friendly forces ashore. By use of small boats and shore observation teams, Commander Venzke extended the scope of coastal surveillance operations into previously inaccessible areas. By maintaining continual liaison with all United States and Republic of Vietnam forces in his area of responsibility and by making maximum use of all forces under his operational control, he was able to provide urgently needed naval gunfire and logistic support to these forces ashore. His outstanding ability to work with people of other services and other nations led to significant improvements in operations of Vietnamese Navy forces and establishment of a combined program for training Vietnamese crews in operation of Navy patrol craft. He was constantly alert to improve material and security conditions at An Thoi, and his perseverance and ingenuity led to major improvements in the airfield and piers, thereby permitting supplies to move in and out efficiently. He worked closely with advisors to the prisoner of war camp and instituted a plan whereby his naval units provided effective gunfire support to the camp in the event of an attack. His aggressive leadership, professionalism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Commander Venzke later served as Chief of Operations before retiring at the rank of Rear Admiral after 35 years of service.

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