



Barham F. Thomson, III

Lieutenant Junior Grade
Class of 1963



The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Silver Star Medal to
Lieutenant Junior Grade Barham F. Thomson, III
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Commanding Officer, USCGC POINT SLOCUM (WPB 82313), Coast Guard Squadron ONE, engaged in MARKET TIME operations to interdict Viet Cong infiltration attempts around the mouth of the Co Chien River on 20 June 1966. POINT SLOCUM went to the assistance of Coast Guard Cutter POINT LEAGUE, which was engaged in a fierce fire fight with a vessel attempting to infiltrate 100 tons of arms and ammunition to the Viet Cong. Upon arrival on the scene, Lieutenant (junior grade) Thomson found that the infiltrator had been forced aground by POINT LEAGUE and that Viet Cong forces concealed on the shore were attempting to drive off the cutter so that the cargo could be retaken. When friendly air support arrived, he made passes close to the shoreline in order to draw enemy fire and force the Viet Cong to disclose their positions to the aircraft. During these valiant maneuvers, POINT SLOCUM received several hits from small arms fire and two near misses from recoilless rifles. When the grounded trawler was set afire, Lieutenant (junior grade) Thomson put POINT SLOCUM along side and proceeded to extinguish the fire. His bravery and skill in risking his vessel, first to draw the enemy fire, and then to save the captured ship and its cargo greatly contributed to the United States efforts against insurgent forces in the Republic of Vietnam and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Armed Forces.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Thomson retired at the rank of Captain after more than 20 years of service.
