



John Natwig

Lieutenant Commander
Class of 1942

The Secretary of the Treasury takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Lifesaving Medal to Lieutenant Commander John Natwig UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

For service as set forth in the following citation:

For heroic action on 11 April 1952, when he rescued a boy from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean, off San Juan, Puerto Rico. Lieutenant Commander Natwig was serving as co-pilot of a Coast Guard PBY-5AG plane, which had landed to effect the rescue of survivors of a ditched Pan American DC-4 plane, when he saw a boy in the water holding up another boy whose head was submerged at times, and who appeared to be drowned. Without hesitation, and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Commander Natwig climbed out of the co-pilot's hatch and dove from the bow of the plane into the shark-infested water. He swam to the assistance of the unconscious boy and supported him until they were both taken aboard an Air Force plane approximately twenty-seven minutes later. Lieutenant Commander Natwig's outstanding courage, initiative, and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

Lieutenant Commander Natwig retired at the rank of Captain.

