



Billy R. Ryan

Lieutenant
Class of 1943

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Bronze Star (with Combat Distinguishing Device “V”) to
Lieutenant Billy R. Ryan
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

For heroic achievement as Boat Group Commander, attached to the U.S.S. LEONARD WOOD, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Saipan, Marianas Islands, from June 15 to 24, 1944. Untiring in the performance of duty, Lieutenant (then Lieutenant Junior Grade) Ryan capably directed and supervised the landing of personnel and supplies under heavy enemy mortar and artillery fire. Although authorized by his superior officer to leave the vicinity because of the intensity of enemy fire, he voluntarily remained to attempt the rescue of a crew of five men from a landing craft stranded on a reed which was under direct enemy fire and, after the rescue, worked two more hours to salvage the boat. In addition, he volunteered to test enemy fire in order to determine whether enemy guns had been neutralized, taking his boat through the channel where hostile guns opened fire upon him. His skill, courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Lieutenant Ryan retired at the rank of Captain.

