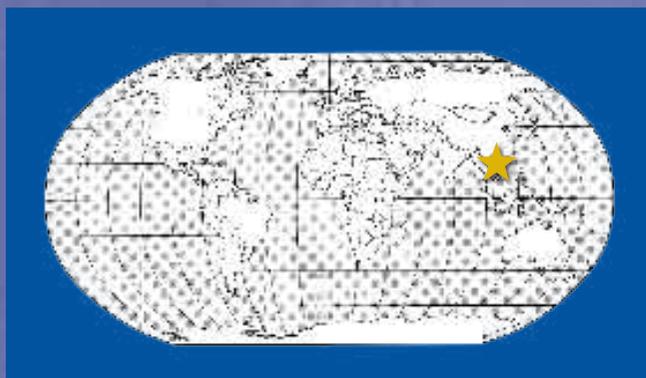




**Joseph Francis Smith**  
Lieutenant Commander  
Class of 1956



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**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting  
the Bronze Star Medal (with Valor) to  
Lieutenant Commander Joseph Francis Smith  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

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For meritorious achievement while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam on 26 October 1968. As Commander, Task Unit 115.3.5 in Market Time Operation Sea Lords Mission Number One, Lieutenant Commander Smith successfully guided the United States Coast Guard Cutters Point Marone and Point Young and Inshore Patrol Craft 28 and 32 through hazardous and restricted waters of the My Than River approaches to conduct a harassment and interdiction raid against known enemy commo-liaison routes and base areas located up-river. Arriving at an enemy encampment, his direction of a perfectly planned organization and a high degree of gunfire effectiveness resulted in devastation of the encampment with four sampans, eleven motorized sampans, eleven huts, six bunkers, three fifty gallon drums containing fuel, six twenty-five gallon water crocks, and two large fishing nets severely damaged or destroyed. The Task Unit came under enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire as it was extracting. Overwhelming gunfire of the combined Coast Guard Cutters and Inshore Patrol Craft quickly suppressed the enemy fire, and no friendly casualties were sustained. Lieutenant Commander Smith directed the action of his Task Unit in an exceptionally professional and effective manner, denying the enemy the continued use of numerous important facilities necessary for their survival and operations. His extraordinary degree of professional competence, devotion to duty, and courage under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Lieutenant Commander Smith was later the Commanding Officer of Support Center Seattle and retired at the rank of Captain.

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