

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the NAVY CROSS to

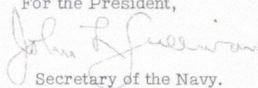
CORPORAL JAMES L. STEPHENSON,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For extraordinary heroism while serving as a Member of a Tank Liaison Team of the Fifth Tank Battalion, Fifth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 22 February 1945. Acting on his own initiative during a heavy rainfall which blinded the tank drivers, Corporal Stephenson, proceeding on foot, led a platoon of tanks in the face of intense enemy fire through hostile mine field areas to a firing position. Braving enemy fire at close range, he directed the tanks' fire against Japanese positions and, subsequently, led the vehicles safely back to their own rear areas. His initiative, courage and unwavering devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,



Secretary of the Navy.

Cpl James L. Stephenson
United States Marine Corps