

AWARD RECOMMENDATION

NAVPE 1557/6 (8-67) S/N-O105-902-0160

DATE: 23 March 1969

INSTRUCTIONS

Originating command fill in all information available and forward to immediate superior.

Via addressee utilize fill-in endorsements. Attach additional sheets as necessary to amplify recommendation.

1. FROM: Commander Coastal Division ELEVEN FPO San Francisco, California 96629				2. TO: Commander Coastal Squadron ONE FPO San Francisco, California 96697		
3. FILE/SERV. NO. 713525	4. NAME (Last, first, initial) KERRY, John Forbes	5. RANK/RATE LTJG	6. OFF. DESIG/MOS 1105	7. BR. OF SERV. USNR		
8. STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> RESERVE		9. SOCIAL SECURITY NO. [REDACTED]	10. EXP. OF ENL. OR OBLI. SERV. Indefinite	11. ESTIMATED DETACHMENT DATE April 1969		
12. PERMANENT ADDRESS Indian Hill Road Groton, MASS			13. PLACE OF BIRTH Denver, COLO			
14. NAME OF PRESENT UNIT Coastal Squadron ONE			DUTY ASSIGNMENT Staff			
15. NAME OF UNIT AT TIME OF ACTION/SERVICE Coastal Division ELEVEN			DUTY ASSIGNMENT Officer-in-Charge, PCF			
16. NAME OF AWARD RECOMMENDED Bronze Star Medal	17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HEROIC <input type="checkbox"/> HERO-TORIOUS	18. <input type="checkbox"/> POST-HUMOUS	19. HAS SERVICE BEEN HONORABLE? (If not, attach statement) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
20. COMBAT "V" RECOMMENDED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	21. AREA WHERE ACTION TOOK PLACE An Xuyen Province, RVN		22. DATE OR DATES OF ACTION/SERVICE 13 March 1969			
23. PREVIOUS DECORATIONS RECEIVED AND DATES OF ACTION (Omit Unit Awards, campaign and service medals) Purple Heart - 2 December 1968 Purple Heart - 20 February 1969 Silver Star Medal - 6 March 1969						
24. DECORATIONS RECOMMENDED BUT NOT YET ACTED ON (INCLUDE DATES OF ACTION/SERVICE COVERED) Purple Heart - 13 March 1969						
25. OTHERS BEING RECOMMENDED FOR SAME ACTION/SERVICE (Name, rank, service number, branch of service and award recommended) L. R. THURLOW, LTJG, 704377, USNR Bronze Star Medal R. E. LAMBERT, RD1, 484 19 67, USN Bronze Star Medal						
26. EYEWITNESSES (Name, rank, service number, branch of service - Attach statements as required) D. L. SANDUSKY, QM1, 585 32 60, USN						

27. SUMMARY OF ACTION (Include date, assignment, location, weather, enemy and friendly strength and disposition, casualties, action justifying the award - When Medal of Honor is recommended append free hand sketch of area.)

On 13 March 1969, LTJG KERRY was serving as Officer-in-Charge of PCF-94 conducting a five boat Sea Lords operation in the Bay Hap river and Dong Cung canal together with ground forces. After sweeping the area for five hours, the boats extracted the ground troops and began exiting the river. Shortly after starting their exit, a mine detonated under one of the boats (PCF-3), lifting it two feet above the water and wounding everyone aboard. Almost simultaneously, another mine detonated close aboard PCF-94, knocking 1st LT RASSMAN into the water and wounding LTJG KERRY in the right arm. PCF-51 immediately went to the aid of PCF-3 while PCF-94 provided cover fire. Shortly after LTJG KERRY was informed that he had a man overboard, he immediately turned his boat around to assist the man in the water, who by this time was receiving sniper fire from the river banks. LTJG KERRY, from his exposed position on the bow of the boat, managed to pull LT RASSMAN aboard despite the painful wound in his right arm. Meanwhile, PCF-94's gunners provided accurate suppressing fire. LTJG KERRY then directed PCF-94 to the stricken PCF-3, where his crew attached a line and towed the boat clear of danger.

28. SUMMARY OF ACTION (Cont'd)

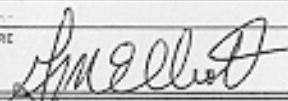
Throughout the entire action, LTJG KERRY proved himself to be calm, professional, and highly courageous in the face of enemy fire.

29. I certify that the facts contained herein are known to me.

NAME, RANK, TITLE OF ORIGINATOR

G. M. ELLIOTT, LCDR, COMCOSDIV ELEVEN

SIGNATURE



30. FIRST ENDORSEMENT

From: Commander Coastal Squadron ONE
 To: Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam
 Via: (1)
 (2)
 (3)

Date: 1 April 1969

1. Forwarded, readdressed.

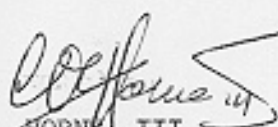
2. Basic recommendation is concurred in. Recommend modification of recommendation (See attached sheet)

Approval not recommended for the following reason(s):

Copy to:
 COMPHIBPAC
 COMCOSFLOT ONE

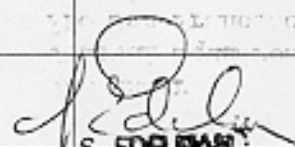
C. F. HORNE, III

(Signature)



31. FORWARDING ENDORSEMENTS BY VIA ADDRESSEE(S)

VIA	RECOMMENDATION	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	RANK, SIGNATURE AND TITLE
1				
2				
3				



S. EDELMAN

32. DISPOSITION OF BASIC RECOMMENDATION BY AWARING AUTHORITY
BRONZE STAR MEDAL APPROVED

SIGNATURE

Assistant Chief of Staff for
 Personnel and Administration

DATE

5/31/69