

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting a Gold Star in lieu of the Fifth Air Medal to

Lieutenant (junior grade) Richard GRANT
United States Naval Reserve

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION

"For heroism and extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as pilot of a helicopter attached to and serving with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron SIX aboard USS KEARSARGE (CVA 33) while on a search and rescue mission in support of combat operations in Southeast Asia against North Vietnamese forces on 24 October 1967. Lieutenant (junior grade) GRANT and his crew were vectored to a position near Do Son Peninsula to rescue a downed Navy attack pilot. The survivor had been located by RESCAP aircraft and was in the water approximately two miles southeast of Do Son. After locating the downed pilot, Lieutenant (junior grade) GRANT skillfully executed a high speed approach to a hover. As the downed pilot was being raised from the water heavy automatic weapon and mortar fire from the beach began closing in on the helicopter. The RESCAP commander recommended immediate departure and Lieutenant (junior grade) GRANT adeptly maneuvered the helicopter to elude the enemy fire while the downed pilot was still in the rescue sling a few feet above the water. Due to Lieutenant (junior grade) GRANT's outstanding airmanship the rescued pilot's exposure to hostile fire was minimized. Resuming a hover, the survivor was quickly taken aboard, evasive maneuvers employed to avoid enemy fire and a rapid departure from the area was skillfully executed. Lieutenant (junior grade) GRANT's outstanding aeronautical skill and his persistence and courage in the face of the enemy fire prevented the capture of a fellow airman. This heroic action and devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President



JOHN J. HYLAND

Admiral, U. S. Navy

Commander in Chief U. S. Pacific Fleet