



3 3064 00103 1969

96th Congress }  
1st Session }

SENATE COMMITTEE PRINT NO. 3

MEDAL OF HONOR  
RECIPIENTS  
1863-1978

—  
“IN THE NAME OF THE CONGRESS  
OF THE UNITED STATES”

—  
PREPARED BY THE  
COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
UNITED STATES SENATE



FEBRUARY 14, 1979

Printed for the use of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

—  
U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON : 1979

61-489 O

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20402

GARY, DONALD ARTHUR

*Rank and organization:* Lieutenant, Junior Grade, U.S. Navy, U.S.S. *Franklin*. *Place and date:* Japanese Home Islands near Kobe, Japan, 19 March 1945. *Entered service at:* Ohio. *Born:* 23 July 1903, Findlay, Ohio. *Citation:* For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as an engineering officer attached to the U.S.S. *Franklin* when that vessel was fiercely attacked by enemy aircraft during the operations against the Japanese Home Islands near Kobe, Japan, 19 March 1945. Stationed on the third deck when the ship was rocked by a series of violent explosions set off in her own ready bombs, rockets, and ammunition by the hostile attack, Lt. (jg.) Gary unhesitatingly risked his life to assist several hundred men trapped in a messing compartment filled with smoke, and with no apparent egress. As the imperiled men below decks became increasingly panic stricken under the raging fury of incessant explosions, he confidently assured them he would find a means of effecting their release and, groping through the dark, debris-filled corridors, ultimately discovered an escapeway. Stanchly determined, he struggled back to the messing compartment 3 times despite menacing flames, flooding water, and the ominous threat of sudden additional explosions, on each occasion calmly leading his men through the blanketing pall of smoke until the last one had been saved. Selfless in his concern for his ship and his fellows, he constantly rallied others about him, repeatedly organized and led firefighting parties into the blazing inferno on the flight deck and, when firerooms 1 and 2 were found to be inoperable, entered the No. 3 fireroom and directed the raising of steam in 1 boiler in the face of extreme difficulty and hazard. An inspiring and courageous leader, Lt. (jg.) Gary rendered self-sacrificing service under the most perilous conditions and, by his heroic initiative, fortitude, and valor, was responsible for the saving of several hundred lives. His conduct throughout reflects the highest credit upon himself and upon the U.S. Naval Service.

GERSTUNG, ROBERT E.

*Rank and organization:* Technical Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company H, 313th Infantry, 79th Infantry Division. *Place and date:* Siegfried Line near Berg, Germany, 19 December 1944. *Entered service at:* Chicago, Ill. *Born:* 6 August 1915, Chicago, Ill. *G.O. No.:* 75, 5 September 1945. *Citation:* On 19 December 1944 he was ordered with his heavy machinegun squad to the support of an infantry company attacking the outer defense of the Siegfried Line near Berg, Germany. For 8 hours he maintained a position made almost untenable by the density of artillery and mortar fire concentrated upon it and the proximity of enemy troops who threw handgrenades into the emplacement. While all other members of his squad became casualties, he remained at his gun. When he ran out of ammunition, he fearlessly dashed across bullet-swept, open terrain to secure a new supply from a disabled friendly tank. A fierce barrage pierced the water jacket of his gun, but he continued to fire until the weapon overheated and jammed. Instead of withdrawing, he crawled 50 yards across coverless ground to another of his company's machineguns which had been silenced when its entire

**BENNETT, ORREN**

*Rank and organization:* Private, Company D, 141st Pennsylvania Infantry. *Place and date:* At Sailors Creek, Va., 6 April 1865. *Entered service at:* Towanda, Pa. *Birth:* Bradford County, Pa. *Date of issue:* 10 May 1865. *Citation:* Capture of flag.

**BENNETT, ORSON W.**

*Rank and organization:* First Lieutenant, Company A, 102d U.S. Colored Troops. *Place and date:* At Honey Hill, S.C., 30 November 1864. *Entered service at:* Michigan. *Born:* 17 November 1841, Union City, Branch County, Mich. *Date of issue:* 9 March 1887. *Citation:* After several unsuccessful efforts to recover 3 pieces of abandoned artillery, this officer gallantly led a small force fully 100 yards in advance of the Union lines and brought in the guns, preventing their capture.

**BENSINGER, WILLIAM (2d to receive Medal of Honor)**

*Rank and organization:* Private, Company G, 21st Ohio Infantry. *Place and date:* Georgia, April 1862. *Entered service at:* Hancock County, Ohio. *Born:* 14 January 1840, Wayne County, Ohio. *Date of issue:* 25 March 1863. *Citation:* One of the 19 of 22 men (including 2 civilians) who, by direction of Gen. Mitchell (or Buell), penetrated nearly 200 miles south into enemy territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Ga., in an attempt to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga and Atlanta.

**BENYAURD, WILLIAM H. H.**

*Rank and organization:* First Lieutenant, Engineers. *Place and date:* At Five Forks, Va., 1 April 1865. *Entered service at:* Philadelphia, Pa. *Birth:* Philadelphia, Pa. *Date of issue:* 7 September 1897. *Citation:* With one companion, voluntarily advanced in a reconnaissance beyond the skirmishers, where he was exposed to imminent peril; also, in the same battle, rode to the front with the commanding general to encourage wavering troops to resume the advance, which they did successfully.

**BETHAM, ASA**

*Rank and organization:* Coxswain, U.S. Navy. *Born:* 1838, New York, N.Y. *Accredited to:* New York. *G.O. No.:* 59, 22 June 1865. *Citation:* Served on board the U.S.S. *Pontoosuc* during the capture of Fort Fisher and Wilmington, 24 December 1864, to 22 January 1865. Carrying out his duties faithfully during this period, Betham was recommended for gallantry and skill and for his cool courage while under the fire of the enemy throughout these various actions.

**BETTS, CHARLES M.**

*Rank and organization:* Lieutenant Colonel, 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry. *Place and date:* At Greensboro, N.C., 19 April 1865. *Entered service at:* Philadelphia, Pa. *Birth:* Bucks County, Pa. *Date of issue:* 10 October 1892. *Citation:* With a force of but 75 men, while on a scouting expedition, by a judicious disposition of his men, surprised and captured an entire battalion of the enemy's cavalry.

**BEYER, HILLARY**

*Rank and organization:* S Pennsylvania Infantry. *Place and date:* tember 1862. *Entered service of issue:* 30 October 1896. forced to fall back, remained wounded comrades and carryin

**BIBBER, CHARLES J.**

*Rank and organization:* Gun: land, Maine. *Accredited to:* M *Citation:* Bibber served on b volunteer crew of a powder bo 23 December 1864. The pow prevent detection by the enem 300 yards of the beach. After anchor with short scope let go crew again boarded the *Wild* miles from shore. Less than 2 the following day fires were of

**BICKFORD, HENRY H.**

*Rank and organization:* Corp ry. *Place and date:* At Waynes at: Hartland, Niagara County, March 1865. *Citation:* Recapt

**BICKFORD, JOHN F.**

*Rank and organization:* Cap Tremont, Maine. *Accredited to:* 1864. *Citation:* Served on destroyed the *Alabama* off C as the first loader of the pi Bickford exhibited marked co recommended for his gallantry

**BICKFORD, MATTHEW**

*Rank and organization:* Corp *Place and date:* At Vicksburg, Trivolia, Peoria County, Ill. B August 1894. *Citation:* Gall; storming party."

**BIEGER, CHARLES**

*Rank and organization:* Pri *Place and date:* At Ivy Farm, at: St. Louis, Mo. *Birth:* Germ Voluntarily risked his life by the line of battle for the resc killed in a charge and who wa

*Citation:* Despite the death of his captain at his side during the assault, he continued carrying his log to the defense ditch. While he was laying his log in place he was shot down and thrown into the water. Unmindful of his own wound he, despite the intense fire, dragged 5 of his comrades from the ditch, wherein they lay wounded, to a place of safety.

**BROWN, WILLIAM H.**

*Rank and organization:* Landsman, U.S. Navy. *Born:* 1836, Baltimore, Md. *Accredited to:* Maryland. *G.O. No.:* 45, 31 December 1864. *Citation:* On board the U.S.S. *Brooklyn* during successful attacks against Fort Morgan rebel gunboats and the ram *Tennessee* in Mobile Bay on 5 August 1864. Stationed in the immediate vicinity of the shell whips which were twice cleared of men by bursting shells, Brown remained steadfast at his post and performed his duties in the powder division throughout the furious action which resulted in the surrender of the prize rebel ram *Tennessee* and in the damaging and destruction of batteries at Fort Morgan.

**BROWN, WILSON**

*Rank and organization:* Landsman, U.S. Navy. *Born:* 1841, Natchez, Miss. *Accredited to:* Mississippi. *G.O. No.:* 45, 31 December 1864. *Citation:* On board the flagship U.S.S. *Hartford* during successful attacks against Fort Morgan, rebel gunboats and the ram *Tennessee* in Mobile Bay on 5 August 1864. Knocked unconscious into the hold of the ship when an enemy shellburst fatally wounded a man on the ladder above him, Brown, upon regaining consciousness, promptly returned to the shell whip on the berth deck and zealously continued to perform his duties although 4 of the 6 men at this station had been either killed or wounded by the enemy's terrific fire.

**BROWN, WILSON W.**

*Rank and organization:* Private, Company F., 21st Ohio Infantry. *Place and date:* Georgia, April 1862. *Entered service at:* Wood County, Ohio. *Birth:* Logan County, Ohio. *Date of issue:* September 1863. *Citation:* One of the 19 of 22 men (including 2 civilians) who, by direction of Gen. Mitchell (or Buell), penetrated nearly 200 miles south into enemy territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Ga., in an attempt to destroy the bridges and tract between Chattanooga and Atlanta.

**BROWNELL, FRANCIS E.**

*Rank and organization:* Private, Company A, 11th New York Infantry. *Place and date:* Alexandria, Va., 24 May 1861. *Entered service at:* Troy, N.Y. *Birth:* New York. *Date of issue:* 26 January 1877. *Citation:* Killed the murderer of Colonel Ellsworth at the Marshall House, Alexandria, Va. First Civil War deed to merit Medal of Honor.

**BROWNELL, WILLIAM P.**

*Rank and organization:* Coxswain, U.S. Navy. *Born:* 1838, New York. *Accredited to:* New York. *G.O. No.:* 32, 16 April 1864. *Citation:* Served as coxswain on board the U.S.S. *Benton* during the attack on

Allegany County, Md. *Date of issue:* 24 August 1905. *Citation:* Was 1 of 4 volunteers who swam the river under a brisk fire of the enemy's sharpshooters and brought over a ferry boat by means of which the troops crossed and dislodged the enemy from a strong position.

#### PORTER, HORACE

*Rank and organization:* Captain, Ordnance Department, U.S. Army. *Place and date:* At Chickamauga, Ga., 20 September 1863. *Entered service at:* Harrisburgh, Pa. *Born:* 15 April 1837, Huntington, Pa. *Date of issue:* 8 July 1902. *Citation:* While acting as a volunteer aide, at a critical moment when the lines were broken, rallied enough fugitives to hold the ground under heavy fire long enough to effect the escape of wagon trains and batteries.

#### PORTER, JOHN R.

*Rank and organization:* Private, Company G, 21st Ohio Infantry. *Place and date:* Georgia, April 1862. *Entered service at:* Findley, Ohio. *Born:* 14 November 1838, Delaware County, Ohio. *Date of issue:* September 1863. *Citation:* One of the 19 of 22 men (including 2 civilians) who, by direction of Gen. Mitchell (or Buell), penetrated nearly 200 miles south into enemy territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Ga., in an attempt to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga and Atlanta.

#### PORTER, WILLIAM

*Rank and organization:* Sergeant, Company H, 1st New Jersey Cavalry. *Place and date:* At Sailors Creek, Va., 6 April 1865. *Entered service at:* ——. *Birth:* New York, N.Y. *Date of issue:* 3 July 1865. *Citation:* Among the first to check the enemy's countercharge.

#### POST, PHILIP SIDNEY

*Rank and organization:* Colonel, 59th Illinois Infantry. *Place and date:* At Nashville, Tenn., 15-16 December 1864. *Entered service at:* Galesburg, Ill. *Born:* 19 March 1833, Florida, Orange County, N.Y. *Date of issue:* 18 March 1893. *Citation:* Led his brigade in an attack upon a strong position under a terrific fire of grape, canister, and musketry; was struck down by a grapeshot after he had reached the enemy's works.

#### POSTLES, JAMES PARKE

*Rank and organization:* Captain, Company A, 1st Delaware Infantry. *Place and date:* At Gettysburg, Pa., 2 July 1863. *Entered service at:* Wilmington, Del. *Born:* 28 September 1840, Camden, Del. *Date of issue:* 22 July 1892. *Citation:* Voluntarily delivered an order in the face of heavy fire of the enemy.

#### POTTER, GEORGE W.

*Rank and organization:* Private, Company G, 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery. *Place and date:* At Petersburg, Va., 2 April 1865. *Entered service at:* Coventry, R.I. *Birth:* Coventry, R.I. *Date of issue:* 4 March 1886. *Citation:* Was one of a detachment of 20 picked artillerymen who voluntarily accompanied an infantry assaulting party, and who turned upon the enemy the guns captured in the assault.

#### POTTER, NORMAN

*Rank and organization:* Infantry. *Place and date:* 1863. *Entered service at:* ——. *Date of issue:* 24 June 1863.

#### POWELL, WILLIAM

*Rank and organization:* ——. *Place and date:* At Sinking Springs, Va. *Entered service at:* Ironton, Mo. *Date of issue:* ——. *Citation:* Distinguished in action and captured the enemy's gun.

#### POWER, ALBERT

*Rank and organization:* ——. *Place and date:* At Peoria, Iowa. *Entered service at:* ——. *Date of issue:* 1899. *Citation:* Took the aid of a dismounted soldier and took him up on his back.

#### POWERS, WELLS

*Rank and organization:* ——. *Place and date:* At Virgil, Ill. *Entered service at:* ——. *Date of issue:* ——. *Citation:* Voluntarily swam across the river by means of a log.

#### PRANCE, GEORGE

*Rank and organization:* ——. *Place and date:* 1827, France. *Entered service at:* ——. *Date of issue:* 1865. *Citation:* Fisher, 24 and 25 April 1865. Despite heavy fire of a 12-pounder Parrot gun, Prance as captain during the fire of the line on the 24th, a well-placed shot materially lessened the fire, and turned upon the enemy's position planted on the line.

#### PRENTICE, GEORGE

*Rank and organization:* ——. *Place and date:* ——. *Entered service at:* ——. *Date of issue:* 3 February 1865. *Citation:* Commanding the field his fire.

the battle, where he picked up the colors after several bearers had been killed or wounded, and carried them until himself again wounded.

#### SCHUTT, GEORGE

*Rank and organization:* Coxswain, U.S. Navy. *Born:* 1833, Ireland. *Accredited to:* New York. *G.O. No.:* 59, 22 June 1865. *Citation:* As coxswain on board the U.S.S. *Hendrick Hudson*, St. Marks, Fla., 5 and 6 March 1865. Serving with the army in charge of Navy howitzers during the attack on St. Marks and throughout the fierce engagement, Schutt made remarkable efforts in assisting transport of the gun, and his coolness and determination in courageously remaining by his gun while under the heavy fire of the enemy were a credit to the service to which he belonged.

#### SCHWAN, THEODORE

*Rank and organization:* First Lieutenant, 10th U.S. Infantry. *Place and date:* At Peebles Farm, Va., 1 October 1864. *Entered service at:* New York. *Born:* 9 July 1841, Germany. *Date of issue:* 12 December 1898. *Citation:* At the imminent risk of his own life, while his regiment was falling back before a superior force of the enemy, he dragged a wounded and helpless officer to the rear, thus saving him from death or capture.

#### SCHWENK, MARTIN

*Rank and organization:* Sergeant, Company B, 6th U.S. Cavalry. *Place and date:* At Millerstown, Pa., July 1863. *Entered service at:* ———. *Birth:* Germany. *Date of issue:* 23 April 1889. *Citation:* Bravery in an attempt to carry a communication through the enemy's lines; also rescued an officer from the hands of the enemy.

#### SCOFIELD, DAVID H.

*Rank and organization:* Quartermaster Sergeant, Company K, 5th N.Y., U.S. Cavalry. *Place and date:* At Cedar Creek, Va., 19 October 1864. *Entered service at:* ———. *Birth:* Mamaroneck, N.Y. *Date of issue:* 26 October 1864. *Citation:* Capture of flag of 13th Virginia Infantry (C.S.A.).

#### SCOTT, ALEXANDER

*Rank and organization:* Corporal, Company D, 10th Vermont Infantry. *Place and date:* At Monocacy, Md., 9 July 1864. *Entered service at:* Winooski, Vt. *Birth:* Canada. *Date of issue:* 28 September 1897. *Citation:* Under a very heavy fire of the enemy saved the national flag of his regiment from capture.

#### SCOTT, JOHN M.

*Rank and organization:* Sergeant, Company F, 21st Ohio Infantry. *Place and date:* Georgia, April 1862. *Entered service at:* Finley, Ohio. *Birth:* Stark County, Ohio. *Date of issue:* 4 August 1866. *Citation:* One of the 19 of 22 men (including 2 civilians) who, by direction of Gen. Mitchell (or Buell), penetrated nearly 200 miles south into enemy territory and captured a railroad train at Big Shanty, Ga., and attempted to destroy the bridges and track between Chattanooga and Atlanta.

#### SCOTT, JOHN WALL

*Rank and organization:* Infantry. *Place and date:* vice at: ———. *Born:* April 1865. *Citation:* C Infantry, in hand-to-hand

#### SCOTT, JULIAN A.

*Rank and organization:* Place and date: At Lee Johnson, Vt. *Birth:* Jo tion: Crossed the creel to assist in bringing off

#### SEAMAN, ELISHA B

*Rank and organization:* Place and date: At Ch at: Logan County, Oh June 1892. *Citation:* W the Union lines, under was obtained valuable

#### SEANOR, JAMES

*Rank and organization:* Boston, Mass. *Accred* 1864. *Citation:* Served *Chickasaw*, Mobile Ba up, Seanor volunteere the *Chickasaw* from th lantly throughout the rebel ram *Tennessee*.

#### SEARS, CYRUS

*Rank and organization:* Artillery. *Place and date:* service at: Bucyrus, O N.Y. *Date of issue:* 3 wounded, fought his nearly all killed or wo

#### SEAVER, THOMAS

*Rank and organization:* date: At Spotsylvania at: Pomfret, Vt. *Bor* issue: 8 April 1892. C most galling fire attac

#### SEITZINGER, JAME

*Rank and organization:* fantry. *Place and date:* vice at: Worcester, P

ACT OF JULY 16, 1862

(12 Stat. 584)

SEC. 10. Permitted promotion, gratuity of \$100, and a medal of honor prepared by the Navy Department to be given to seamen who distinguish "themselves in battle, or by extraordinary heroism in the line of their profession."

Amended the provisions members of the Army "Congress, a medal of honor the Army, shall hereafter himself conspicuously beyond the call of duty."

ACT OF MARCH 3, 1863

(12 Stat. 744, 751)

SEC. 6. Authorized preparation of additional "Medals of Honor" and presentation of such medals to "such officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates as have most distinguished or who may hereafter most distinguish themselves in action. . . ."

Authorized the President the naval service on the requirement that such

ACT OF MAY 2, 1896

(29 Stat. 473)

Authorized issuance of rosettes and ribbons to those individuals holding "Medals of Honor" under the provisions of the resolution of July 12, 1862 and Act of March 3, 1863.

Extended the period

ACT OF MAY 4, 1898

(30 Stat. 741)

Authorized rosettes and ribbons to be issued to holders of medals of honor presented by the Department of the Navy.

Amended the Act of Professional Medals of Honor of his profession" a detriment to the military

ACT OF MARCH 3, 1901

(31 Stat. 1099)

Extended the provisions of the Act of July 16, 1862, to enlisted Marines.

ACT OF MARCH 3, 1915

(38 Stat. 928, 931)

Authorized the President "to prepare a suitable medal of honor to be awarded to any officer of the Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard who shall have distinguished himself in battle or displayed extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession."

Revised, codified Authorized President Coast Guard on service

ACT OF APRIL 27, 1916

(39 Stat. 53)

Provided for the establishment of "the Army and Navy medal of honor roll" and payment upon application of a special pension of \$10 per month beginning at age 65 for persons who have "been awarded a medal of honor for having in action involving actual conflict with an enemy distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry or intrepidity, at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty . . ." Provided for the Secretary of War or the Secretary of the Navy to determine whether the recipient of the medal of honor who applied for such pension met the new requirements.

Career Competence provided additional awarded certain

ACT OF JUNE 3, 1916

(39 Stat. 166, 214)

SEC. 122. Provided for convening a board of officers to investigate and report on past awards of the "so-called congressional medal of honor" to ascertain whether any had been issued for any cause other than distinguished conduct . . . in action involving actual conflict with an enemy . . ." The board so convened was authorized to strike names of individuals awarded such medals for other causes "from the official medal of honor list."

Revised, codified Code. Codified Medal of Honor such medals to

Revised, codified Designated the Honor Roll." authorized a