



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the
BRONZE STAR MEDAL posthumously to

CHIEF BOATSWAIN'S MATE JOSEPH L. GEORGE
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For heroic achievement in connection with combat operations on 7 December 1941, while serving aboard USS VESTAL (AR-4) during the Japanese air raid on Pearl Harbor. Despite the extreme danger posed by enemy machine guns, bombs, and torpedoes, Chief (then-Boatswain's Mate Second Class) George steadfastly maintained his exposed position topside to assist in damage control efforts and preparations to get VESTAL underway. USS ARIZONA, which was moored inboard of VESTAL, suddenly exploded, devastating that ship and its crew. Intense fires raged aboard ARIZONA and in the surrounding oil-slicked water, making escape nearly impossible. Several severely burned and stranded ARIZONA crewmembers hailed Chief George, who immediately tossed them a line, across which they crawled one by one to VESTAL. Chief George then assisted VESTAL in getting clear of the danger posed by ARIZONA. Were it not for Chief George's actions, all the ARIZONA Sailors would likely have perished. By his initiative, courage, and devotion to duty, Chief George reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

The V device for valor is authorized.

For the President,

Secretary of the Navy



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HAS AWARDED THE

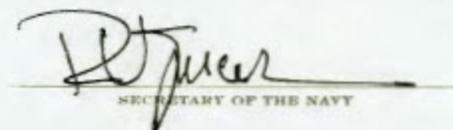
BRONZE STAR MEDAL
(WITH V DEVICE FOR VALOR)

TO
CHIEF BOATSWAIN'S MATE JOSEPH L. GEORGE, UNITED STATES NAVY
FOR

HEROIC ACHIEVEMENT ON 7 DECEMBER 1941

GIVEN THIS 16th DAY OF November 2017




SECRETARY OF THE NAVY