



www.history.navy.mil

PERSONAL AWARDS

A U.S. NAVY TRADITION

The earliest known use of awards dates back to Ancient Egypt, beginning with the “Order of the Golden Fly.” These awards were usually reserved for nobility and identified them as members of the military class.

www.academia.edu/241855/Ahhotep_I_and_the_Golden_Fly



“A SOLDIER WILL FIGHT LONG AND HARD FOR A BIT OF COLORED RIBBON.”

-NAPOLEAN BONAPARTE

Most decorated enlisted Sailor:

BMC JAMES E. WILLIAMS



<http://www.public.navy.mil/surflant/ddg95/Pages/Namesake.aspx>

Most decorated officer:

VICE ADM. JAMES STOCKDALE



<http://www.usna.edu/Ethics/bios/stockdale.php>

Ribbons were developed to replace medals as the method of displaying awards during working days



Medals can be adorned with different devices to represent various honors, such as stars for multiple awards, or a “V” device to signify valor in combat as shown here.

U.S. Navy Uniform Regulation 5301 - 5319 Awards



Awards are worn on the left breast. This tradition dates back to Crusaders wearing badges of honor from their military order over their heart.

Naval Ceremonies, Customs, and Traditions, Fifth Edition, Mack and Connell

When wearing medals with formal dress, ribbons that have no corresponding medal are worn over the right breast.

U.S. Navy Uniform Regulation 5301 - 5319 Awards

