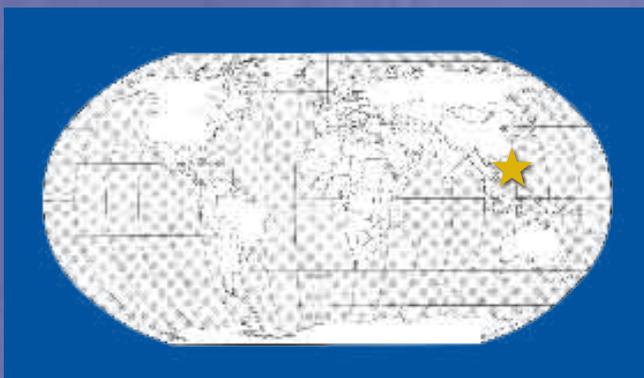


William E. Murphy

Ensign
Class of 1945



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Silver Star Medal to
Ensign William E. Murphy
United States Coast Guard**

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against enemy Japanese Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area, January 8, 1945. Causing himself to be lowered into a wrecked clipping room on his ship, Ensign Murphy rescued an injured man while the room was still burning and ammunition in it exploding. By his unselfish and courageous action, he saved the life of the shipmate, and his gallant devotion to duty was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Further described in the following Summary:

Aboard the USS CALLAWAY (APA-35) in the South China Sea, Ensign Murphy, the ship's Signal Officer at General Quarters, was at his battle station on the signal bridge during a Kamikaze attack. Ensign Murphy and the Chief Signalman flattened themselves on the deck as the fireball passed over them. After recovering, they were able to look down into the 20mm clipping room where aviation fuel was still blazing and 20mm shells were detonating. A badly injured survivor was standing amid the wreckage, calling for help. Lowered into the scene of carnage with the Chief Signalman's help, Murphy hoisted the injured man to the Chief, who pulled him up onto the deck. The rescued man later succumbed to his injuries, and was among thirty-one CALLAWAY fatalities, including nine of Murphy's signalmen, who were buried at sea in the South China Sea.

Ensign Murphy later became an aviator and retired at the rank of Captain.
