



Thomas R. Pennington

Lieutenant
Class of 1965



**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting
the Bronze Star Medal (with Combat Distinguishing Device “V”) to
Lieutenant Thomas R. Pennington
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

For meritorious service while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam from 2 April 1968 to 30 March 1969. Lieutenant Pennington served as Commanding Officer of United States Coast Guard Cutter POINT ARDEN attached to Coast Guard Squadron One, Division Twelve from 15 April to 28 September 1968, and as Chief Staff Officer, Division Twelve from 28 September 1968 to 10 March 1969. He conducted an aggressive counter-infiltration effort and engaged in direct support of operations against the Viet Cong. As Commanding Officer of POINT ARDEN, he initiated and implemented operational techniques and tactics making his command an effective MARKET TIME patrol craft. He conducted numerous naval gunfire support missions, resulting in the destruction of, or damage to, many Viet Cong junks, sampans and bunkers. On 4 September 1968, as a result of his skillful shiphandling and professional abilities, POINT ARDEN was successfully guided through Typhoon Bess. During his assignment as Chief Staff Officer, Lieutenant Pennington dramatically increased the effectiveness and efficiency of the MARKET TIME mission by his timely and original recommendations. His diligent execution of his responsibilities afforded the stability necessary for an effective organization. Lieutenant Pennington’s outstanding leadership, professional abilities, and devotion to duty and untiring efforts to improve operations were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Lieutenant Pennington retired at the rank of Commander.
