



# DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY HAS AWARDED THE

## NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL (WITH COMBAT "V")

TO

FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM F. RYAN, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

FOR

HEROIC ACHIEVEMENT ON 18 MAY 1969

GIVEN THIS 20TH DAY OF NOV 19 69



*John H. Chafee*  
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting  
the NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL to


FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM F. RYAN  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For heroic achievement while serving as Platoon Commander with Company C, 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, 3d Marine Division in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. On 18 May 1969, during Operation VIRGINIA RIDGE, as the 3d Platoon initiated an attack up the side of a thickly vegetated hill, the Marines were heavily engaged with a hostile force utilizing grenades. Alertly observing a grenade land near one of his men, First Lieutenant Ryan, with complete disregard for his own safety, fearlessly knocked the Marine out of the way, preventing his possible death or injury. First Lieutenant Ryan's initiative, superb professionalism, and loyal devotion to duty reflected credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

The Combat Distinguishing Device is authorized.

  
Secretary of the Navy