



# THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

## SILVER STAR MEDAL

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

FOR  
GALLANTRY IN ACTION  
ON 24 MAY 1969

GIVEN THIS 4TH DAY OF FEB 19 70



*John J. Chafee*  
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the  
SILVER STAR MEDAL to

FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM F. RYAN  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as a Platoon Commander with Company C, 1st Battalion, 3d Marines, 3d Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam on 24 May 1969. While Company C was conducting a search and destroy operation northwest of Cam Lo, the Marines came under a heavy volume of mortar fire and, during the initial moments of the attack, sustained several casualties. Reacting instantly, First Lieutenant Ryan unhesitatingly left his relatively secure position and, racing across the fire-swept terrain to a forward mortar emplacement, rendered first-aid to several men and fearlessly moved them to a covered position to await medical evacuation. During the ensuing fierce engagement, he repeatedly exposed himself to the intense hostile fire as he moved through the hazardous area from one Marine position to another to distribute ammunition and encourage his men. While assisting in the delivery of suppressive counter mortar fire, First Lieutenant Ryan was seriously wounded but, disregarding the pain of his injuries, resolutely continued his combat efforts until the severity of his wounds forced his medical evacuation. His courageous and determined actions inspired all who served with him and were instrumental in suppressing the enemy fire. First Lieutenant Ryan's courage, aggressive leadership, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of grave personal danger saved the lives of two Marines reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

For the President,

Secretary of the Navy