

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

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


SERGEANT JAMES A. SALERNO,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity while serving as an Acting Platoon Leader of Company G, Third Battalion, Twenty-sixth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, in action against enemy Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, from 1 to 19 March 1945. Assuming command after his Platoon Leader was killed during a hostile night attack on 1 March, Sergeant Salerno immediately rallied his men to repulse the enemy and, on the following day, courageously led his platoon in an attack on a strong hostile position composed of many machine gun emplacements cut into solid rock. Although his group suffered severe casualties, Sergeant Salerno ably directed them in attaining their objective for the day and in holding it during the night against repeated enemy counterattacks. By his coolness, initiative and personal bravery, he upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,



Secretary of the Navy.