

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the
NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL to

LANCE CORPORAL ROGER W. JEROME

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For heroism while serving with Company B, Marine Barracks, Guam. On the afternoon of 9 April 1971, Lance Corporal Jerome, as a member of a rescue team, responded to an emergency generated when another Marine fell down a natural shaft during a field exploration. The configuration of the shaft was such that it dropped sharply for approximately eighty feet, angled on a horizontal decline for some distance, then dropped sharply again for a total of two hundred feet. While having no knowledge of these facts, Lance Corporal Jerome became aware of the personal dangers involved when the first man to rappel down the tunnel encountered the first ledge, lost his balance, and plummeted the remaining distance to the bottom of the shaft. Nevertheless, determined to do everything possible to aid the two Marines who most certainly lay seriously injured at the bottom of the tunnel, Lance Corporal Jerome, followed by a companion, valiantly descended and, although burdened with a stretcher, first aid supplies, and a radio, succeeded in negotiating the full distance to the bottom without mishap. Once there, he determined that the first casualty was the more critically injured and, after applying splints to his patient's broken bones and bandages to his numerous lacerations, fastened the man to the stretcher and signaled that he was prepared to ascend. For the following ninety minutes, Lance Corporal Jerome painstakingly guided the stretcher up the shaft, a climb made perilous to both himself and the victim by the many loose rocky protuberances that lined the walls. As soon as he attained the surface, although somewhat wearied by his arduous experience, he descended a second time and, skillfully repeating the entire difficult performance, brought the other casualty to the surface. Because the Marine who had originally descended with him had utilized his rope to fasten the injured men to the stretcher, he lacked a means of returning to the surface. Since it was impossible to throw a rope to him because of the pitch of the tunnel, Lance Corporal Jerome, who was now almost at the point of exhaustion, again volunteered to descend with the necessary rope. Although the existing ropes had become considerably frayed from repeated dragging along the rough walls, he took the precautions available to him and, despite the vastly increased danger, fearlessly rappelled to the bottom for a third time and assisted his comrade to attain the surface. Lance Corporal Jerome's courage, heroic initiative, and selfless devotion to duty were instrumental in saving the lives of two fellow Marines and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

FOR THE PRESIDENT,

Wm K Jones

WILLIAM K. JONES

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC