The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star Medal to

JOHN FORBES KERRY
LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as Officer in Charge of United States Navy Patrol Craft Fast 94 and Officer in Tactical Command of an operation in the Republic of Vietnam. On 28 February 1969, Patrol Craft Fast 23, 43 and 94, in conjunction with Underwater Demolition Team 13 and Vietnamese Regional and Popular Forces personnel, conducted an operation on the Ca Mau Peninsula as part of Operations SEA LION. While transiting the Bay Nop River on route to an insertion point along the Dong Cung River, these craft with thirty Regional/Popular Force personnel embarked in each unit came under heavy enemy small arms fire from the river banks. The Officer in Tactical Command, Lieutenant (Junior grade) KERRY directed his units to turn to the beach and charge the Viet Cong positions. Lieutenant (Junior grade) KERRY expertly directed the fire of his craft at the fleeing enemy while simultaneously coordinating the insertion of the embarked troops. While the Regional and Popular Forces conducted an area sweep, Patrol Craft Fast 43 remained on station to provide fire support and Patrol Craft Fast 23 and 94 moved upstream to investigate an area from which gunfire was coming. Arriving at the area, Lieutenant (Junior grade) KERRY's craft received a 5-40 rocket close aboard. Once again Lieutenant (Junior grade) KERRY ordered his units to charge the enemy positions and summoned Patrol Craft Fast 43 to the area to provide additional firepower. Patrol Craft Fast 94 then beached in the center of the enemy positions and an enemy soldier sprung up from his position not ten feet from Patrol Craft Fast 94 and fled. Without hesitation Lieutenant (Junior grade) KERRY leaped ashore, and fired. Without hesitation Lieutenant (Junior grade) KERRY leaped ashore, and fired. Without hesitation Lieutenant (Junior grade) KERRY leaped ashore, and fired. Without hesitation Lieutenant (Junior grade) KERRY leaped ashore, and fired. 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strafing runs which completely silenced the enemy. As a result of this operation, ten Viet Cong were killed and one wounded with no friendly casualties. In addition, numerous sampans, structures and bunkers were destroyed as well as confiscation of substantial quantities of combat essential supplies. Lieutenant (juniour grade) KERRY's devotion to duty, courage under fire, outstanding leadership, and exemplary professionalism directly contributed to the success of this operation and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President

[Signature]

E. R. BUSHWALT, Jr.
Vice Admiral, U. S. Navy
Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Vietnam