



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

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

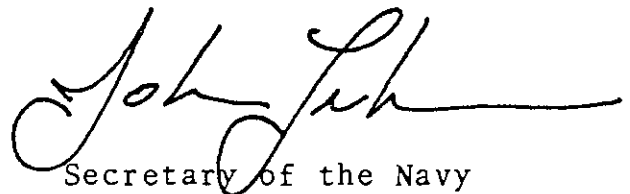
LIEUTENANT RICHARD E. CYRUS
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in armed conflict against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong Communist aggressors in the Republic of Vietnam. On 5 September 1969, Lieutenant (then Boatswain's Mate Second Class) Cyrus was a member of a six-man United States Navy Seal squad on a mission to locate a meeting place of Viet Cong district level cadre in Long An Province. After a helicopter inserted the squad near the suspected enemy meeting site, the squad split into two 3-man teams and concealed themselves in the surrounding area. At that time, four team members started to crawl towards the suspected Viet Cong meeting place while Lieutenant Cyrus remained concealed to provide cover. Suddenly, two team members came under heavy automatic weapons fire from two enemy positions. Lieutenant Cyrus immediately came to his feet and, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, ran towards the enemy position delivering several barrages of accurate machine gun fire, while simultaneously radioing for United States Navy helicopter gunship support. Although wounded, he again exposed himself to heavy enemy fire to rejoin his two men and maintain devastating fire into the enemy emplacements, suppressing the enemy fire. By his daring actions, resolute fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Lieutenant Cyrus was directly responsible for preventing the loss of his entire squad; thereby reflecting great credit upon himself and upholding the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,



Secretary of the Navy