

It is my privilege to present the MERCHANT MARINE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL, authorized by Public Law 398, 86th Congress, to

LEONARD P. LARUE
Master
SS MEREDITH VICTORY

In recognition of his bravery, humanitarianism, outstanding leadership and marine skill, when, in December, 1950, as Captain of the MEREDITH VICTORY, he guided his ship and crew in accomplishing the evacuation of thousands of Korean civilians from war-torn Hungnam, Korea.

By reason of his command, and the bravery and seamanship of his crew, the MEREDITH VICTORY has been recognized as a "Callant Ship" and cited as follows:

At the height of the epoch-making evacuation of Hungnam, Korea, by the United Nations Forces in December, 1950, the MEREDITH VICTORY was requested to assist in the removal of Korean civilians trapped and threatened with death by the encircling enemy armies. Most of the military personnel had been pulled out, and the city was aflame from enemy gunfire. Despite imminent danger of artillery and air attack, and while her escape route became more precarious by the hour, the MEREDITH VICTORY, her tanks full of jet fuel, held her position in the shell-torn harbor until 14,000 men, women and children had crowded into the ship. One of the last ships to leave Hungnam, the MEREDITH VICTORY set her course through enemy mine fields, and although having little food and water, and neither doctor nor interpreter, accomplished the three-day voyage to safety at Pusan with her human cargo, including several babies born enroute, without loss of a single life.

The courage, resourcefulness, sound seamanship and teamwork of her master, officers and crew in successfully completing one of the greatest marine rescues in the history of the world have caused the name of the MEREDITH VICTORY to be perpetuated as that of a Callant Ship.

Leonard P. Larue is congratulated upon the performance of an action which was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Merchant Marine, and I have directed that a copy of this award be made a part of his service record.

Clarence G. Morse
Maritime Administrator

The attached Gallant Ship Unit Citation is to be awarded to the entire crew of the SS MERRIDITH VICTORY as listed below:

Joseph Blessett	Wiper
John P. Brady	Chief Engineer
Robert H. Clarke	Utility
Russell V. Claus	Messman
Richard L. Coley	Ordinary Seaman
Charles C. Crockett	Oiler
Sidney E. Deel	Assistant Electrician
Andres Diaz	Wiper
Alvar G. F. Ranson	Third Mate
Major M. Fuller	Steward
Lee Green	Fireman/Watertender
Nathaniel T. Green	Radio Officer
Albert W. Golembeski	Second Mate
Lawrence Hamaker, Jr.	Oiler
Edgar L. Hardon	Utility
Morall B. Harper	Electrician
Charles J. Harris	Able-bodied Seaman
Leon L. Hayes	Utility
George E. Hirsinaki	First Assistant Engineer
Joseph A. Horton	Fireman/Watertender
Lonnie G. Hunter	Able-bodied Seaman
William R. Jarrett	Able-bodied Seaman
Kenneth E. Jones	Able-bodied Seaman
Leon A. Katrobos, Jr.	Ordinary Seaman
Alfred W. Kaufhold	Licensed Junior Engineer
James A. Kelsey	Junior Third Assistant Engineer
Leonard P. LaRue	Master
James R. Lunney	Purser
Herbert W. Lynch	Chief Cook
Patrick H. McDonald	Able-bodied Seaman
Adrian L. McGregor	Messman
Ira D. Murphy	Deck Utility
Willie Newell	Assistant Cook
Vernice Newsome	Wiper
Nile H. Noble	Third Assistant Engineer
Elmer B. Osmond	Bosun
Harding H. Petersen	Second Assistant Engineer
Johnnie Pritchard	Messman
Dino Savastio	Chief Mate
Henry J.B. Smith	Junior Third Mate
Merl Smith	Licensed Junior Engineer
Louis A. Sullivan	Fireman/Watertender
Ismail B. Tang	Ordinary Seaman
Noel R. Wilson	Able-bodied Seaman
Wong T. Win	Second Cook and Baker
Ernest Wingrove	Deck Utility
Steve G. Xenos	Oiler