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## NPS Alumni Medal of Honor Recipients

Sanders, John

Monterey, California. Naval Postgraduate School

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**NPS ALUMNI  
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS**

**1. Bennion, Mervyn**

“For conspicuous devotion to duty, extraordinary courage, and complete disregard of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, by Japanese forces on 7 December 1941. As Commanding Officer of the USS *West Virginia*, after being mortally wounded, Capt. Bennion evidenced apparent concern only in fighting and saving his ship, and strongly protested against being carried from the bridge.”

**2. Bradley, Willis Winter, Jr.**

“For extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty while serving on the USS PITTSBURGH at the time of an accidental explosion of ammunition on that vessel. On July 23, 1917, some saluting cartridge cases were being reloaded in the after casemate, through an accident an explosion occurred. Captain Bradley (then a Lieutenant), who was about to enter the casemate was blown back by the explosion and rendered momentarily unconscious, but while still dazed, crawled into the casemate through blinding smoke, rescued a man, then reentered the casemate to extinguish burning materials in dangerous proximity to a considerable amount of powder, thus preventing further explosions.”

**3. Gilmore, Howard S.**

“For conspicuous gallantry and valor and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the USS *Growler* during her fourth war patrol in the southwest Pacific from 10 January to 7 February 1943. Boldly striking at the enemy in spite of continuous hostile air and anti-submarine patrols, Cmdr. Gilmore sank one Japanese freighter and damaged another by torpedo fire, successfully evading severe depth charges following each attack. in the darkness of night on 7 February, an enemy gunboat closed range and prepared to ram the Growler. Cmdr. Gilmore daringly maneuvered to avoid the crash and rammed the attacker instead, ripping into her port side and bursting wide her plates. In the terrific fire of the sinking gunboat's heavy machineguns, Cmdr. Gilmore calmly gave the order to clear the bridge, and refusing safety for himself, remained on deck while his men preceded him below. Struck down by a fusillade of bullets and having done his utmost against the enemy, in his final living moments, Cmdr. Gilmore gave his last order to the officer of the deck, "Take her down". The Growler dived; seriously damaged but under control, she was brought safely to port by her well trained crew inspired by the courageous fighting spirit of their dead captain.”

**4. Fluckey, Eugene B.**

“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the *USS Barb* during her eleventh war patrol along the east coast of China from 19 December 1944 to 15 February 1945. After sinking a large enemy ammunition ship and damaging additional tonnage during a running two hour night battle on 8 January, Cmdr. Fluckey, in an exceptional feat of brilliant deduction and bold tracking on 25 January, located a concentration of more than 30 enemy ships in the lower reaches of Nankuan Chiang (Mamkwam Harbor). Fully aware that a safe retirement would necessitate an hour's run at full speed through the uncharted, mined and rock obstructed waters, he bravely ordered "battle stations - torpedoes!" In a daring penetration of the enemy screen, and riding in five fathoms of water, he launched the *Barb's* last forward torpedoes at 3,000 yard range. Quickly bring the ship's stern tubes to bear, he turned loose four more torpedoes into the enemy, obtaining eight direct hits on six of the main targets to explode a large ammunition ship and caused inestimable damage by the resultant flying shells and other pyrotechnics. Clearing the treacherous area at high speed, he brought the *Barb* through to safety and four days later sank a large Japanese freighter to complete a record of heroic combat achievement, reflecting the highest credit upon Cmdr. Fluckey, his gallant officers and men and the U.S. Naval Service.”

**5. Hutchins, Carlton B. (1938)**

"For extraordinary heroism as the pilot of the United States Navy Seaplane PBV-2 No. 0463 (11-P-4) on the occasion of a collision with U.S. Navy Seaplane PBV-2, No. 0462 (11-P-3) while engaged in tactical exercises with the U.S. Fleet on February 2, 1938. Although his plane was badly damaged, Lieutenant Hutchins remained at the controls endeavoring to bring the damaged plane to a safe landing and to afford an opportunity for his crew to escape by parachutes. His cool, calculated conduct contributed principally to the saving of the lives of all who survived. His conduct on this occasion was above and beyond the call of duty."

**6. McCandless, Bruce I (1942, Guadalcanal)**

“For conspicuous gallantry and exceptionally distinguished service above and beyond the call of duty as communication officer of the U.S.S. *San Francisco* in combat with enemy Japanese forces in the battle off Savo Island, 12–13 November 1942. In the midst of a violent night engagement, the fire of a determined and desperate enemy seriously wounded Lt. Comdr. McCandless and rendered him unconscious, killed or wounded the admiral in command, his staff, the captain of the ship, the navigator, and all other personnel on the navigating and signal bridges. Faced with the lack of superior command upon his recovery, and displaying superb initiative, he promptly assumed command of the ship and ordered her course and gunfire against an overwhelmingly powerful force. With his superiors in other vessels unaware of the loss of their admiral, and challenged by his great responsibility, Lt. Comdr. McCandless boldly continued to engage the enemy and to lead our column of following vessels to a great victory. Largely through his brilliant seamanship and

great courage, the San Francisco was brought back to port, saved to fight again in the service of her country.”

**7. Van Valkenburgh, Franklin (1941, Pearl Harbor)**

"For conspicuous devotion to duty, extraordinary courage and complete disregard of his own life, during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor, T.H., by Japanese forces on 7 December 1941. As Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. *Arizona*, Captain Van Valkenburgh gallantly fought his ship until the U.S.S. *Arizona* blew up from magazine explosions and a direct bomb hit on the bridge which resulted in the loss of his life."