

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR to

CAPTAIN JOSEPH J. POSS, U.S.M.C.R.,

for service as set forth in the following:

CITATION:

"For outstanding heroism and courage above and beyond the call of duty as Executive Officer of (a) Marine Fighting Squadron ONE TWENTY-ONE, at Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. Engaging in almost daily combat with the enemy from October 9 to November 12, 1942, Captain Poss personally shot down twenty-three Japanese planes and damaged others so severely that their destruction was extremely probable. In addition, during this period, he successfully led a large number of escort missions, skillfully covering reconnaissance, bombing and photographic planes as well as surface craft. On January 15, 1943, he added three more enemy planes to his already brilliant successes for a record of aerial combat achievement unsurpassed in this war. Boldly searching out an approaching enemy force on January 25, Captain Poss led his eight P4F Marine planes and four Army P-38s into action and, undaunted by tremendously superior numbers, intercepted and struck with such force that four Japanese fighters were shot down and the bombers were turned back without releasing a single bomb. His remarkable flying skill, inspiring leadership and indomitable fighting spirit were distinctive factors in the defense of strategic American positions on Guadalcanal."

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

President, United States.