

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

FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT M. HANSON, USMCR.,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION;

"For gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as fighter pilot attached to Marine Fighting Squadron TWO FIFTEEN in action against enemy Japanese forces at Bougainville Island, November 1, 1943, and New Britain Island, January 24, 1944. Undeterred by fierce opposition and fearless in the face of overwhelming odds, First Lieutenant Hanson fought the Japanese boldly and with daring aggressiveness. On November 1, while flying cover for our landing operations at Empress Augusta Bay, he dauntlessly attacked six enemy torpedo bombers, forcing them to jettison their bombs and destroying one Japanese plane during the action. Cut off from his division while deep in enemy territory during a high cover flight over Simpson Harbor on January 24, First Lieutenant Hanson waged a lone and gallant battle against hostile interceptors as they were orbiting to attack our bombers and, striking with devastating fury, brought down four Zeros and probably a fifth. Handling his plane superbly in both pursuit and attack measures, he was a master of individual air combat, accounting for a total of 25 Japanese aircraft in this theater of war. His great personal valor and invincible fighting spirit were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

/S/ Franklin D. Roosevelt