The President of the United States takes
senting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS HAROLD GONZALEZ,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE,

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of
his life above and beyond the call of duty as Acting Scout Sergeant
of a Forward Observer Team, serving with Battery L, Fourth Bat-
tenn, Fifteenth Marines, Sixth Marine Division, during action
against enemy Japanese forces on Okinawa Shima in the Ryukyu
Chain, 15 April 1945. Undaunted by the powerfully organized
opposition encountered on Motobu Peninsula during a fierce assault
waged by a Marine infantry battalion against a Japanese strong-
hold, Private First Class Gonsalves repeatedly braved the terrific
hostile bombardment to aid his Forward Observation Team in
directing well-placed artillery fire and, when his commanding officer
determined to move into the front lines in order to register a more
effective bombardment in the enemy's defensive position, unhesitat-
ingly advanced uphill with the officer and another Marine despite a
slashing barrage of enemy mortar and rifle fire. As they reached
the front, a Japanese grenade fell close within the group. Instantly
Private First Class Gonsalves dived on the deadly missile, absorbing
the exploding charge in his own body and thereby protecting the others
from serious and perhaps fatal wounds. Stouthearted and indomitable,
Private First Class Gonsalves readily yielded his own chances of
survival that his fellow Marines might carry on the relentless battle
against the fanatic Japanese and his cool decision, prompt action and
valiant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of certain death reflect
the highest credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service.
He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country.”