The President of the United States in the name of The Congress
takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

STAFF SERGEANT LEWIS G. WATKINS
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

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 while serving as a Guide of a Rifle Platoon of
Company I, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division
(Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea during
the hours of darkness on the morning of 7 October 1952. With his platoon
assigned the mission of re-taking an outpost which had been overrun by
the enemy earlier in the night, Staff Sergeant Watkins skillfully led his
unit in the assault up the designated hill. Although painfully wounded
when a well-entrenched hostile force at the crest of the hill engaged the
platoon with intense small-arms and grenade fire, he gallantly continued
to lead his men. Obtaining an automatic rifle from one of the wounded
men, he assisted in pinning down an enemy machine gun holding up the
assault. When an enemy grenade landed among Staff Sergeant Watkins
and several other Marines while they were moving forward through a
trench on the hill crest, he immediately pushed his companions aside,
placed himself in a position to shield them and picked up the deadly
missile in an attempt to throw it outside the trench. Mortally wounded
when the grenade exploded in his hand, Staff Sergeant Watkins, by his
great personal valor in the face of almost certain death, saved the lives of
several of his comrades and contributed materially to the success of the
mission. His extraordinary heroism, inspiring leadership and resolute
spirit of self-sacrifice reflect the highest credit upon himself and enhance
the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave
his life for his country.

/S/ DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER