

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TAKES PLEASURE IN  
PRESENTING THE SILVER STAR MEDAL TO**

**MAJOR WILLIAM H. KENNEDY, JR.  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,**

**FOR SERVICE AS SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING**

**CITATION:**

**“FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND INTREPIDITY  
AS COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE FIRST BATTALION,  
TWENTY-SEVENTH MARINES, FIFTH MARINE DIVISION, IN  
ACTION AGAINST ENEMY JAPANESE FORCES ON IWO JIMA,  
VOLCANO ISLANDS, 15 MARCH 1945. ALTHOUGH  
SUFFERING FROM A WOUND INFLICTED BY THE ENEMY THREE  
DAYS PREVIOUS, MAJOR KENNEDY COOLLY DIRECTED AND  
ENCOURAGED HIS ASSAULT UNITS, WHICH HAD BEEN  
GREATLY DISORGANIZED BY CASUALTIES AND REPLACEMENTS**

**AND WERE NEAR EXHAUSTION FROM SIX DAYS OF FIGHTING.  
BY HIS AGGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP, HE INSPIRED HIS MEN NOT  
ONLY IN THE SEIZURE OF A HEAVILY-DEFENDED RIDGE TO  
THEIR IMMEDIATE FRONT, BUT IN ADVANCING AN ADDITIONAL  
TWO HUNDRED YARDS TO TAKE A RIDGE THAT DOMINATED  
THE ENTIRE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE ISLAND. HIS  
COURAGEOUS FIGHTING SPIRIT AND TACTICAL JUDGMENT  
WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE  
UNITED STATES NAVAL SERVICE.”**

**FOR THE PRESIDENT,**

**JOHN L. SULLIVAN**

**SECRETARY OF THE NAVY**