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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
FORWARD AREA, CENTRAL PACIFIC

The Commander Forward Area, Central Pacific, takes pleasure in commending

WILLIE EUGENE RICH, AVIATION MACHINIST'S MATE, FIRST CLASS
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For courageous actions during an enemy air attack on the night of 26 December 1944 while serving at a United States Naval Air Base in the Marianas Islands. Immediately following the outbreak of fire in one of the engines of a Navy Liberator bomber as a result of enemy bombs, he, in company with two other men obtained fire extinguishers and fought the fire from the wing of the plane until the fire was extinguished. Shortly afterwards, he assisted in extinguishing fires in two nearby planes in spite of the danger of personal injury from burning gasoline, exploding ammunition, and intense heat. His initiative, courage, and devotion to duty gave evidence of his value to the Naval Service."

J. H. HOOVER
Vice Admiral
United States Navy

ENCLOSURE (1-A)