

Lt Eugene Russell Shannon, died of wounds, Iwo Jima.

Rank *Lieutenant* Name *Eugene Russell Shannon*
First name Middle name Last Name

Serial Number *None* Branch of Service *Co. Haplain's Corps*

Date of birth *July 13, 1906* Place of birth *Wesden, Ohio*

Date of enlistment or induction (state which) *August 20, 1942*

Important battles *Beate, Invasion of Luzon, Iwo Jima*

Decorations *Purple Heart, American Area Campaign Medal, **

Date of death *Feb. 21, 1945* Place of death *Invasion of Iwo Jima*

Cause or manner of death *Enemy action - Died of wounds citation*

Special duties or qualifications *Co. Haplain*

Length of foreign service *Two years and two months -*

How long was he a resident of Muskingum Co. *Twenty-six (26) years -*

* Asiatic-Pacific Area Campaign Medal. * Navy & Marine Corps Medal (See other side)

Sept. 16 / 1945

What school and college diplomas did he hold?

Northwestern University (B. A. Degree)

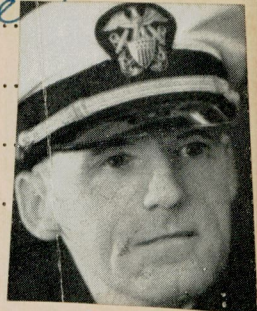
Occupation in civilian life

Seaman

If married, name and address of wife

Names and ages of children

Other important biographical information



* Seabury-Western Theological Seminary (B. D. Degree)
Muskingum College - 100 years -

Name and address of relative who supplied above information

Mrs. William E. Shannon, (Mother)

Zanesville telephone No.

101 Stephenson Court Apts,
Freeport, Illinois -

101 Stephenson Court Apt. 1,
Freeport, Illinois -

Dear Mr. Schneider:

At the present time we do not
have a photograph of Captain Shannon,
but the Reverend Duncan Weeks of
your city has one and perhaps you
could have one engraved from his
copy - I am sure he would be glad to
have you use it.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. Mrs. E.) Mame Shannon.

July 4, 1945.

Navy and Marine Corps medal posthumously awarded to Lieutenant Eugene Shannon. The citation accompanying the medal reads as follows:

The president of the United States takes pleasure in the Navy and Marine Corps Medal posthumously to Lieutenant Eugene Russell Shannon, chaplains corps, United States Naval reserve, for service set forth in the following citation:

For heroic conduct as a chaplain attached to the U. S. S. Bismarck Sea, in connection with the ultimate rescue of personnel following the sinking of that vessel by enemy Japanese aerial forces during operations in support of our landings at Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands, February 21, 1945. Sensing the plight of the men struggling in the waters in the vicinity of his lifeboat after abandoning the Bismarck Sea, Lieutenant Shannon, who had lapsed into a semi-conscious condition as a result of serious wounds, repeatedly roused himself in an effort to allay the fears of all who were affected by shock and exhaustion and, drawing deeply from his spiritual strength in the midst of chaos and disaster, spoke with calm courage to the panic-stricken, bewildered men, pronouncing words of infinite faith and wisdom and inspiring in the despairing company the resolute acceptance of temporal hardship and determination to survive, which enabled them to face the rigors and uncertainties of their circumstances with stoic fortitude.

Completely selfless in his concern for others and tireless in his vigilance, he grievously overtaxed his waning energies during the long hours of exposure and succumbed shortly after his own rescue had been effected. Held in reverence by the entire personnel of the Bismarck Sea, Lieutenant Shannon, by his unfaltering leadership, sympathetic understanding and practical counsel in period of crisis, contributed essentially to the saving of many who otherwise might have perished, and his self-sacrificing devotion to duty throughout upheld the highest traditions of the United States naval service. He gallantly gave his life that others might live.

For the President
(Signed) James Forrestal
Secretary of the Navy