

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the LEGION OF MERIT to

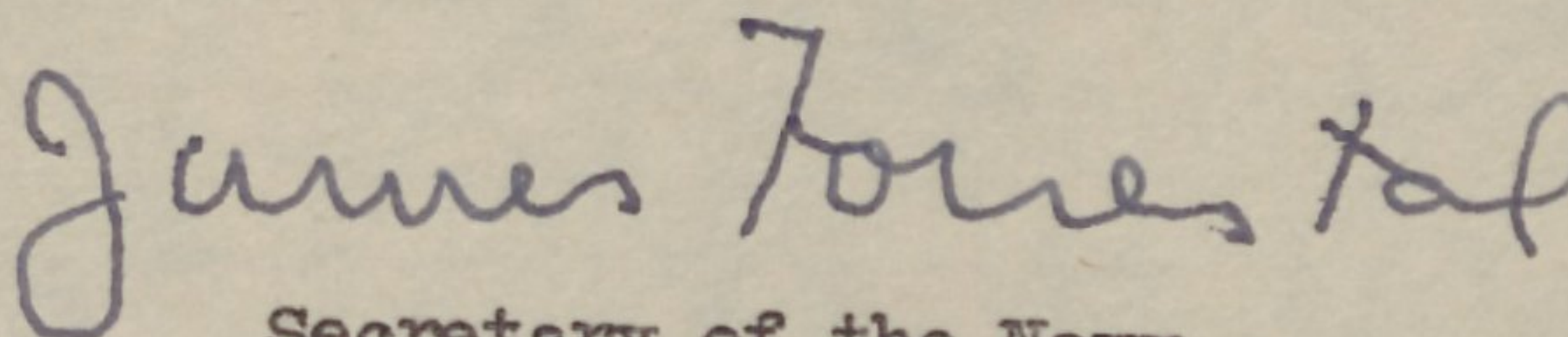
CAPTAIN WILLIAM STAMPS HOWARD, JR.
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Commander, Patrol and Escort Group, Task Force FIFTY SEVEN; Commander, Escort Division TWENTY EIGHT; and Commander, Marshall Gilberts Surface Patrol and Escort Group, during sustained operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Central Pacific Campaign, from January 1, 1944, to March 9, 1945. Commanding a Task Group comprised of from forty to sixty vessels including destroyers, destroyer escorts, mine-sweepers and patrol craft, Captain (then Commander) Howard effectively fulfilled his assignments consisting of successful anti-submarine actions, rescue missions in the face of enemy fire, clearing of mines, transportation of essential personnel and material, patrols and constant escort missions. Maintaining a high state of service readiness despite inadequate repair and upkeep facilities, he contributed materially to the success of our operations in the area. His leadership and energetic efforts and devotion to duty throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

For the President,



Secretary of the Navy