

**The following named individual received the Navy & Marine Corps Medal**

BROWN, James H.

SD3

USN

USS BENNINGTON (CVA-20)  
Island

Rhode

RECOMMENDED: NAVY & MARINE CORPS MEDAL on CO, USS  
BENNINGTON

ltr ser 5025 of 26 Aug 1954. Rec'd Bd D&M 14 Dec 1954.

AWARDED: NAVY & MARINE CORPS MEDAL by Sp Bd D&M Mtg, Ser 2  
dtd 4 Jan 1955. App SecNav 8 Jan 1955.

“ For outstanding heroism, courageous action and performance beyond the call of duty during the tragic explosion and fires onboard the BENNINGTON, while serving onboard in the Supply Department of that ship. On 26 May 1954, the BENNINGTON while conducting air operations 75 miles south of Newport, RI, suffered a series of violent explosions that spread flash fires, intense heat, and dense smoke throughout much of the forward section of the ship causing death or injury to 220 officers and men. Realizing that serious dangers existed but without regard for his own safety, BROWN chose not to make his escape up one deck to safety but rather to go below to a compartment where men were known to be asleep and get them out if possible. His heroic, courageous and quick action saved the lives of several men. In so doing, BROWN very nearly lost his own life and suffered burns and injuries requiring extensive hospitalization. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”