

The following named individuals received the Letter of Commendation only

SCHRADER, Frederick J.

BM3

USN

USS BENNINGTON (CVA-20)

Rhode Island

RECOMMENDED (SECNAV) LETTER OF COMMENDATION on CO USS BENNINGTON ltr ser 5025 of 8/28/54. Rec'd Bd D&M 12/14/54.

AWARDED: (SECNAV) LETTER OF COMMENDATION (WITHOUT RIBBON) by Sp Bd D&M mtg, Ser 2 of 4 Jan '55. App SecNav 8 Jan 1955.

“For courageous action and performance beyond the call of duty in connection with the disastrous explosions and fire which occurred on the BENNINGTON while he was serving in the Gunnery Dept. The BENNINGTON, while conducting air operations 75 miles south of Newport, RI, experienced a series of violent explosions. These explosions spread flame, flash fires, intense heat and dense smoke throughout the forward section of the ship, causing death or injury to 220 officers and men. Aware that great dangers existed but without regard for his own safety, SCHRADER entered the most critical area and despite dense asphyxiating smoke, torn and twisted bulkheads, and the ever present threat of further explosions, proceeded to the forward auxiliary power room and secured all ventilation, thus reducing the possibility of spreading smoke and fumes. While in the area he found two badly burned men and carried them to safety after which he again entered the critical area to assist in removing numerous casualties. His courageous and untiring efforts were highly instrumental in saving several lives and in minimizing damage to the ship. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”