

BOYINGTON, Charles E.

Airman USN

USS BENNINGTON (CVA-20)
Island

Rhode

RECOMMENDED: (SECNAV) LETTER OF COMMENDATION on CO USS BENNINGTON ltr ser 5025 of 8/26/54. Rec'd Bd D&M 12/14/54.

AWARDED: (SECNAV) LETTER OF COMMENDATION (WITHOUT RIBBON) by Sp Bd D&M, 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 fires which occurred on the BENNINGTON while he was serving in the Air Department. On 26 May 1954, the BENNINGTON was conducting air operations 75 miles south of Newport, RI, when the ship experienced a series of violent explosions. These explosions spread flame, flash fires, intense heat and dense smoke throughout the forward section of the ship and death or injury to 220 officers and men. With complete disregard for his own safety BOYINGTON immediately volunteered to enter the damaged area and search for the injured shipmates. He forced his way through jammed doors, torn bulkheads and thick smoke to help carry several casualties to the hanger deck for medical treatment. Despite the dangers involved and the possibility of further explosions he returned to the devastated spaces and assisted in fighting flash fires that had sprung up among the debris. His unswerving devotion to duty, courageous actions, and initiative contributed greatly to the expeditious removal of many casualties and in minimizing damage to the ship. BOYINGTON's actions throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”