

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION to the

U.S.S. LEXINGTON

and her attached Air Groups participating in the following operations:

September 18, 1943, Tarawa; October 5-6, 1943, Wake; November 19 to December 5, 1943, Gilberts: AG-16 (VF-16, VB-16, VT-16).

March 18 to April 30, 1944, Palau, Hollandia, Truk; June 11 to July 5, 1944, Marianas: AG-16 (VF-16, VB-16, VT-16, Part of VFN-76).

July 18 to August 5, 1944, Marianas, Palau, Bonins; September 6 to November 6, 1944, Philippines, Palau, Yap, Ryukyus, Formosa, Luzon: AG-19 (VF-19, VB-19, VT-19, Part of VFN-76).

December 14-16, 1944, Luzon; January 3 to 22, 1945, Philippines, Formosa, China Sea, Ryukyus: AG-20 (VF-20, VB-20, VT-20).

February 16 to March 1, 1945, Japan, Bonins, Ryukyus: AG-9 (VF-9, VBF-9, VB-9, VT-9).

June 20, 1945, Wake; July 10 to August 15, 1945, Japan: AG-94 (VF-94, VBF-94, VB-94, VT-94).

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces in the air, ashore and afloat in the Pacific War Area from September 18, 1943, to August 15, 1945. Spearheading our concentrated carrier-warfare in the most forward areas, the U.S.S. LEXINGTON and her air groups struck crushing blows toward annihilating Japanese fighting power; they provided air cover for our amphibious forces; they fiercely countered the enemy's aerial attacks and destroyed his planes; and they inflicted terrific losses on the Japanese in Fleet and merchant marine units sunk or damaged. Daring and dependable in combat, the LEXINGTON with her gallant officers and men rendered loyal service in achieving the ultimate defeat of the Japanese Empire."

For the President,

*James Forrestal*  
Secretary of the Navy