

Lost at Sea, Joseph Roberge Awarded Air Medal by the Navy Posthumously

Joseph Roger Roberge, aviation radioman third class, USNR, (shown here) who was lost at sea June 20, has been awarded the air medal posthumously for courage and skill displayed in action against enemy Japanese. His citation follows:



"For meritorious achievement in aerial flight as aircrewman of a torpedo bombing plane of a torpedo squadron attached to a U. S. aircraft carrier in action against enemy Japanese warships near the Marianas Islands in June, 1944. When his pilot launched a vigorous heroic attack on the enemy vessels in the face of heavy aerial opposition and intense anti-aircraft fire of all calibers, Roberge carried

out his important duties skillfully and with unwavering determination, rendering invaluable service by providing vital target range data and enabling the pilot to drop his torpedoes accurately.

Strafed Hostile Ships

During the retirement after the attack, he steadfastly manned his machine gun and strafed hostile screening ships, thereby reducing the effectiveness of the enemy fire, and on the return flight was of great navigational assistance. Roberge's expert technical ability and courageous devotion to duty, maintained at great personal risk, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States naval service."

Roberge was the son of Romeo Roberge, 236 Elmwood ave. He was graduated from Burlington high school in 1939, and was active in basketball and track. A memorial requiem high mass was sung for him in St. Joseph's church July 22.

Joseph Roberge 26 Dec 1944

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