

DeLong, Robert A.

For Heroism

NOV 8 1945



LT. ROBERT A. DeLONG

Lieut. De Long Earns Navy Cross Award

"For extraordinary heroism in action against the enemy while serving as a Marine rifle platoon leader on Okinawa Shimo, May 3, 1945," Lieut. Robert A. DeLong, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas DeLong, 2546 Easton Avenue, was awarded the Navy's highest military decoration, the Navy Cross, during Navy Day ceremonies October 27, 1945, at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Oak Knoll, Oakland, Calif.

The award, presented by the Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, was accompanied by the following citation: "Second Lieutenant DeLong was ordered to deploy his platoon and attack a heavily fortified enemy strongpoint consisting of automatic weapon positions and concrete reinforced caves. While leading a flanking party around a machine gun emplacement, he exposed himself to the firing post of the hostile weapon and was severely wounded, but fell in a covered position. His flame thrower operator was killed in the attempt to burn out the enemy position. He, with utter disregard for his own personal safety or the painful wounds he had previously sustained, crawled to the flame thrower operator's body, removed the apparatus, and shot the flame into the embrasure of the fortification. The enemy gun continued firing, and he was again severely wounded in the head and rendered unconscious, but his heroic actions in diverting the attention of the enemy made it possible for his men to flank the cave and destroy the weapon and its crew."

The heroic "leatherneck" is a graduate of Bethlehem High School, where he was a noted wrestler, and a former student of Lehigh University, when he was a high point varsity wrestler in his sophomore year.

Lt. DeLong enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps Reserves in December, 1942 and was sent to the University of Rochester, Parris Island, S. C. and Camp Lejeune, N. C.

November 8, 1945