

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

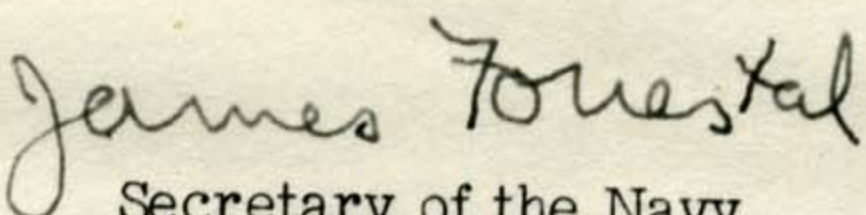
The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS posthumously to
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JAMES BLACKSTONE TAYLOR, JR.
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as a Test Pilot engaged in experimental flying attendant upon the development of new types of aircraft during a prolonged period of aviation progress. Volunteering to carry out extremely hazardous demonstration flights of military planes requiring terminal velocity dives, high accelerations, spins and aerobatics, Lieutenant Commander Taylor frequently risked his life in the most unconventional types of aircraft, many of which had never previously been tested in these vital maneuvers. While testing a new plane for the Navy at Dahlgren, Maryland, in March 1939, he lost consciousness as a result of severe acceleration during the violent pull-out after a high-speed dive but, with part of his craft torn loose and a wing deformed, brought the plane under control immediately upon regaining consciousness and successfully flew into the airport. On May 25, 1942, although fully aware of the peril involved, he volunteered for an exceptionally dangerous flight to test a new Navy fighter plane and lost his life when the electrical control mechanism failed to function. Lieutenant Commander Taylor's superb airmanship, great personal valor and fearless devotion to duty were responsible in large measure for the rapid advance of military aviation and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

For the President,


Secretary of the Navy

GENERAL BRONZE CORPORATION
DISTINCTIVE METAL WORK
LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y.

June 1, 1942.

The Honorable Leonard W. Hall,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Len:

You were probably as shocked as some of Jimmie Taylor's closest friends to learn of the great sacrifice he made last Monday in the service of his country.

Nassau County has never produced a finer character nor a more outstanding example of unselfishness and courageous service as that displayed by our Lieutenant Commander James B. Taylor, Jr., during the last quarter of a century.

In World War No. 1 he served as a test pilot, and became one of our greatest fliers. He has since that date continued his flying activity and, although it is little known, he was constantly testing planes as a private citizen while maintaining his status in the Naval Aviation Reserve.

His contribution during these many years, often at the risk of his own life, has substantially aided aviation design and development, and has undoubtedly saved many lives as a result of the perfections achieved.

His return to active service during the present war was a definite sacrifice to him, both materially and domestically, through his forced separation from his family in the performance of his duties. He has now made the supreme sacrifice while testing a plane for the U. S. Navy, and I feel that this justly deserves recognition by the government, although such recognition must be saddened by its posthumous status.

COPY FROM

GENERAL BRONZE CORPORATION
DISTINCTIVE METAL WORK
LONG ISLAND CITY, N. Y.

I believe that you should make an immediate urgent request that Jiamie Tylor's name be immortalized through the highest Navy award to which he might be eligible. I should be glad to cooperate and assist in any way if you wish to call on me.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

WPJ/lh

COPY FROM
GENERAL BRONZE CORPORATION
DISTINCTIVE METAL WORK
LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y.

July 3, 1942.

Hon. James A. Forrestal,
Under Secretary of the Navy,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Recently Lieutenant-Commander James B. Taylor, Jr.,
lost his life in the act of testing an airplane for the United
States Navy.

Not only due to my close personal friendship with him
over a period of years, but also prompted by my knowledge of his
character and many of his services, I feel inspired to respect-
fully request that the Navy Board of Awards give consideration
to a fitting posthumous award for his meritorious services during
World War No. 1 and the current conflict, as well as those ren-
dered as a reserve officer and as a civilian during the inter-
vening period.

James Taylor was loved by all who knew him -- a man of
excellent character and highest integrity. His devotion to his
country was evidenced in the continued fearless efforts he gave
in testing planes without hesitancy. He never allowed his per-
sonal or domestic affairs to interfere with the call of duty.

An award to such a man should prove not only an inspir-
ation to his fellows in arms at the time of his death, but also
to those who were close to him during the years 1917 and 1918,
many of whom are now past the age of active military service and
are contributing to the war effort through industry or civilian
branches of the government.

Respectfully,

s/ Walter P. Jacob

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
WASHINGTON

7 July 1942

Dear Mr. Jacob:

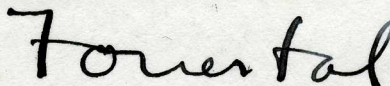
This is to acknowledge and thank you for your letter concerning Lieutenant Commander James B. Taylor, Jr. who lost his life in the act of testing an airplane for the United States Navy.

It goes without saying that there is merit to your suggestion for we all have the highest regard for Jimmie Taylor and feel there should be some visible symbol of recognition by the Navy of his splendid contribution to aviation.

Our problem in this regard is not a simple one for there are many of our aviators who have given their lives either in direct combat or by pursuing their mission well knowing they could not get back to their carriers.

It is my feeling that we must be sure that all these splendid officers receive recognition and that it becomes an established policy that their heroic sacrifices be recognized by posthumous awards. When that policy has been established then it will be possible to take action in the case of all those who are so deserving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Forrestal". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'F' being particularly large and stylized.

James Forrestal

Mr. W. P. Jacob, President
General Bronze Corporation
Long Island City, N. Y.