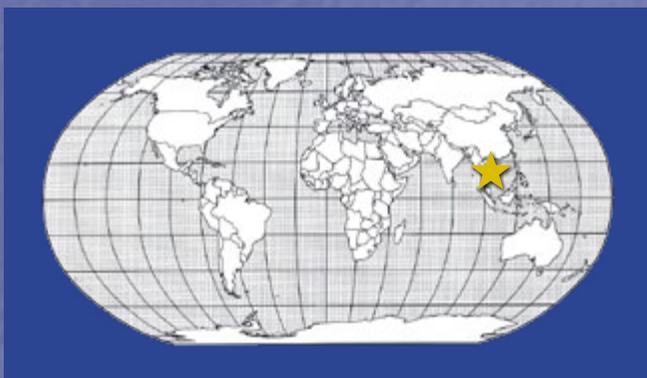




**Joseph M. Maka**  
Captain  
Class of 1964



---

**The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting  
this Citation to accompany the award of the Bronze Star with combat  
distinguishing device to Lieutenant Joseph M. Maka  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

---

For service as set forth in the following Citation:

Lieutenant Joseph M. Maka was cited for meritorious achievement on 13 May 1967 while serving as Commanding Officer of the USCGC POINT KENNEDY (WPB 82320) operating in enemy waters off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam. The POINT KENNEDY was assigned the mission of escorting a US Navy sounding survey boat in hostile waters when the boat came under intense enemy fire from the beach. The survey boat sustained a direct hit at the waterline and began to sink. Lieutenant (then Lieutenant, Junior Grade) Maka unhesitatingly placed the POINT KENNEDY in the line of fire between the enemy sally and the survey boat in order to shield it from further gunfire by securing the boat alongside. The POINT KENNEDY returned the enemy's gunfire expending 1500 rounds of .50 caliber machine-gun ammunition to suppress the Viet Cong barrage while simultaneously screening the survey boat from attack, rescuing the boat's crew and salvaging the sinking boat. While the POINT KENNEDY's salvage crew was controlling the flooding damage to the survey boat to prevent it from sinking, the POINT KENNEDY came under fire from the enemy's shore batteries. In the face of intense recoilless-rifle fire impacting within twenty yards of his own vessel, Lieutenant Maka directed extremely accurate mortar fire from the POINT KENNEDY at the enemy cannonade and called in a combat air strike against these enemy emplacements. Through his effective and well-coordinated efforts in damage control, his superb seamanship, and his accurate gunfire, he saved a valuable survey boat and its crew while bringing his vessel through the combat action with no personnel casualties. Lieutenant Maka's exemplary leadership, courage, and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Armed Forces.