



*The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the NAVY  
COMMENDATION MEDAL to*

*CORPORAL WILLIAM E. DURSTON*

*UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS*

*for service as set forth in the following*

**CITATION:**

*“For meritorious service while serving as a Fire Team Leader with the Third Force Reconnaissance Company, Third Reconnaissance Battalion, Third Marine Division in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam from 22 February 1968 to 4 February 1969. Throughout this period, Corporal Durston performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner. Participating in twenty-one long-range reconnaissance patrols, he repeatedly distinguished himself by his courage and composure under fire. Demonstrating bold initiative and resourcefulness, he skillfully directed his men in collecting vital intelligence information concerning enemy activities and capabilities which was instrumental in the success of subsequent operations conducted against hostile forces. Constantly concerned for the combat readiness of his unit, he fearlessly trained his men and molded them into an effective fighting force, capable of expeditiously accomplishing all assigned tasks. By his leadership, professional competence and loyal devotion to duty, Corporal Durston contributed significantly to the accomplishment of his unit’s mission and upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.”*

*Corporal Durston is authorized to wear the Combat “V”.*

**FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,**

*H. W. Buse Jr*

**H. W. BUSE, JR.**

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS**

**COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC**