

Joseph John Miceli Memorabilia Descriptions

Newspaper clipping from The New London Day newspaper about my enlistment
Lame Duck Discharge Button for the Navy reserve.

Honorable Discharge Button from the Navy - Navy Dec. 31 1945

Lame duck discharge patch – Navy and **Lame duck discharge patch** - Navy Reserve

Rating badge - 1944 Petty Officer 1st class, worn on the left arm.

Golden Shellback certificate - The Imperial Domain of the Golden Dragon is a certificate and an identity given to sailors crossing latitude 000 at the 180th meridian, which I did in 1943. In the ceremony I had laid on the deck wind scoop canvas tunnels that were used to bring air into the cargo holes. People being initiated, like me, had to crawl through them while the previous shellbacks paddled us with wooden paddles.

Domain of Neptune Rex Cards - Cards for my Oct. 1943 crossing of the equator and back.

Bracelet that a girl back home, Ruth Strout, gave me to remember her when I went off to war. I had a picture of Ruth in a towel that I put it in my locker like a pinup poster and all guys would look at it. I never saw her again.

Watch that I wore all through the war.

Japanese Military Pin – from a Japanese Soldier in Tarawa.

American Marine Pin - from a marine lapel at Tarawa.

Italian bullets – From the night I slept in a foxhole in Sicily - found them on the beach.

American 45 caliper bullet that I picked up somewhere. I never had to shoot my standard issue 45. Our guns kept disappearing after each invasion, so by the third landing, we were only issued a knife for protection.

Hawaii charm – souvenir when I was in Pearl Harbor

Amphibious Forces Shoulder Patch

My Dog Tags - Each officer and enlisted man of the Navy and Naval Reserve were issued an identification tag" made of Monel metal, 1.25 by 1.5 inches, but perforated at each end. The face of each tag was to bear the individual's name; officer rank or enlisted service number; blood type; if vaccinated for tetanus, the letter "T" with date in numerals (e.g., 8/40); and service (USN, USMC, USNR, USMCR). A right index fingerprint was etched on the reverse. The use of a second tag, individually suspended by a short length of chain so that one tag could be removed "on death or capture, leaving the other in place." Dimensions of the second tag remained the same, but the tag was to be of "corrosion-resisting material" - 17 percent chromed steel. (Monel metal was no longer specified), perforated at each end, and the etched fingerprint was omitted. Markings consisted of name; officer file number, or enlisted service number; blood type; date of tetanus inoculation; service; and religion, if desired by the service member: Catholic (C), Protestant (P), or "Hebrew" (H). When a service member was buried, ashore or at sea, one tag was to be left with the body and the other sent to BuPers "as soon as practicable under the circumstances."

Black Book – opened to the day we landed in Iwo Jima. I carried this book all through the war and recorded every departure and arrival date.

Picture of the USS Harry Lee – My boat: was a Harry Lee-class attack transport that saw service with the US Navy during WW II. She served in the Pacific War, as well as in North Atlantic Ocean operations, and safely returned home post-war with seven battle stars to her credit. She was the only ship in her class.

Authorization card for the ship for the medals earned (from left to right):

- 1. American Theater Ribbon** - For service during World War II within the American Theater of Operations, awarded to any member of the Armed Forces who served in the American Theater of Operations during the period from December 7, 1941 to March 2, 1946 or was awarded a combat decoration while in combat against the enemy. The medal is a circular bronze disc showing a Navy cruiser, a B-24 bomber and a sinking enemy submarine above three waves. Shown in the background are some buildings representing the United States. Above is the raised inscription, "AMERICAN CAMPAIGN." The reverse of the medal shows an American eagle standing on a rock. On the left of the eagle are the raised inscribed dates, "1941-1945" and on the right, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA."
- 2. European-African Ribbon** (1 bronze star) Awarded for at least 30 days of consecutive (60 days nonconsecutive) service within the European Theater of Operations between December 7, 1941 and November 8, 1945 (lesser periods qualify if individual was in actual combat against the enemy during this period). The front of the bronze medal shows a Landing Ship, Tank (LST) unloading troops while under fire with an airplane overhead. The reverse has the American eagle, symbol of power, standing on a rock, symbol of stability, with the inscription, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and dates, "1941-1945."
- 3. Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon** (1 silver star, 1 bronze star) Awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces for at least 30 consecutive (60 nonconsecutive) days service (less if in combat) within the Asiatic-Pacific Theater between December 7, 1941 and March 2, 1946. The front of the medal shows a palm tree amidst troops with an aircraft overhead and an aircraft carrier, battleship and submarine in the background. The reverse has the American eagle, symbolizing power, on a rock, symbolizing stability, with the inscription, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" on the eagle's back.
- 4. Philippine Independence Ribbon** – To recognize those members of the military who had participated in multiple Philippine military operations. Service member must have previously received both the [Philippine Defense Medal](#) and the [Philippine Liberation Medal](#) to be eligible. The Philippine Independence Medal was originally awarded as a ribbon, and it was not until 1968 that a full-sized medal was authorized by President [Ferdinand Marcos](#) of the Philippines. The medal is a circular gold disc with a female figure in the center, dressed in native garb and holding the Philippine flag. There are flags on either side of the figure and she is surrounded by a circular border. Inside the border is a raised inscription, "PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE" (in English) around the top and July 4, 1946 at the bottom. The reverse contains the inscription, "GRANTED PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" set in six lines (also in English).
- 5. Victory Ribbon** - The front of the medal depicts the Liberty figure resting her right foot on a war god's helmet with the hilt of a broken sword in her right hand and the broken blade in her left hand. The reverse contains the words, "FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND WANT, FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND RELIGION, and UNITED STATES OF AMERICA 1941-1945." The red center stripe of the ribbon is symbolic of Mars, the God of War, representing both courage and fortitude. The twin rainbow stripes, suggested by the World War I Victory Medal, allude to the peach following a storm. A narrow white stripe separates the center red stripe from each rainbow pattern on both sides of the ribbon. The World War II Victory Medal provides deserving recognition to all of America's veterans who served during World War II.
- 6. Good Conduct Ribbon** - The medal is awarded to enlisted personnel of the United States Navy and Naval Reserve (active duty) for creditable, above average professional performance, military

behavior, leadership, military appearance and adaptability based on good conduct and faithful service for three-year periods of continuous active service. The Navy Good Conduct Medal is a circular bronze disc with a raised anchor and anchor chain circling a depiction of the U.S.S. Constitution and the words, "CONSTITUTION and UNITED STATES NAVY." The reverse side of the medal has the raised inscription, "FIDELITY - ZEAL - OBEDIENCE" around the border with space provided in the center to stamp the recipient's name.

7. Philippino Liberation Ribbon - Awarded to any service member, of both Philippine and allied militaries, who participated in the liberation of the Philippine Islands and must have served in the Philippines for at least thirty days during the eligible time period, or must have participated in one of the following actions: Participation in the initial landing operation of Leyte and adjoining islands from October 7 to October 20, 1944; or Participation in any engagement against hostile Japanese forces during the Philippine Liberation Campaign of October 17, 1944 to September 2, 1945. Personnel who are awarded the medal for participation in the abovementioned operations are authorized a service star to the Philippine Liberation Medal. The medal is gold with a Philippine sword; point up, superimposed over a white native shield having three gold stars at the top and the word, "LIBERTY" below. Below are vertical stripes of blue, white and red enamel with the sword being in the center of the white stripe. At the sides of the medal and below the shield are gold arched wings. The reverse of the medal has the raised inscription, "FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES" set in four lines (all inscriptions are in English).