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USS JACK H. LUCAS (DDG 125)

Honoring A U.S. Marine Corps Hero

A Young Hero

- Jacklyn Harrell Lucas was born in Plymouth, N.C., Feb. 14, 1928. With his mother's consent, he enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve Aug. 6, 1942, claiming his age as 17 though he was only 14.
- Lucas was advanced to private first class Jan. 29, 1944, while he was at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, but was reduced to the rank of private in 1945 when he was declared absent without leave after he walked out of camp with statements to his friends that he was going to join a combat organization.
- Lucas stowed away on board the USS Deuel (APA 160) but surrendered to the senior troop officer Feb. 8, 1945. Allowed to remain, he was transferred to Headquarters Company, 5th Marine Division, which operated out of Camp Pendleton, Ca.
- Following the landing at Iwo Jima, Lucas and three other men jumped into two shallow foxholes after the Japanese opened a hand grenade attack on them. Private Lucas threw his body over the grenade, then pulled a second one beneath him. He was left for dead by his companions though he was miraculously still alive. He earned the Medal of Honor for his actions.
- At 17 years old, the reappointed Private First Class Lucas was the youngest Marine ever to receive the Medal of Honor. He was discharged from the Marine Corps Reserve Sept. 18, 1945, because of disability resulting from his wounds.



DDG Quick Facts:

- Name:** USS Jack H. Lucas (DDG 125)
- Class:** Arleigh Burke
- Mission:** Provide multi-mission offensive and defensive capabilities
- Length:** 509 feet
- Speed:** 30+ knots
- Crew:** 329 total

A LOOK AT THE MEDAL OF HONOR

1861

President Abraham Lincoln approved the congressional action to provide for 200 Navy Medals of Honor.



1863

On July 1, Cpl. John F. Mackie became the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor.

1915

Congress authorized U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers to wear the Medal of Honor.

2016

As of 2016, there have been 297 Medals of Honor awarded to Marines.

“Private First Class Lucas unhesitatingly hurled himself over his comrades upon one grenade and pulled the other one under him, absorbing the whole blasting force of the explosions in his own body in order to shield his companions from the concussion and murderous flying fragments.”

- From Lucas' Medal of Honor Citation, 1945