



The Legacy of Carmine A. Casciano

We are pleased to announce the Carmine A. Casciano Salute to Service Award. The Medic Now Foundation proudly presents this prestigious award to honor the extraordinary bravery and selfless dedication of United States Marine Helicopter Pilot Carmine A. Casciano (also known as Captain Cash) during the Vietnam War. The award will be presented to a member of our military community on the night of the event.

As a decorated US Marine and distinguished member of The Purple Foxes, Casciano flew over 600 missions and received 32 air medals during his deployment in the Republic of Vietnam.

On the night of June 5, 1969, Casciano led a mission to evacuate three casualties from a heavily engaged Army of the Republic of Vietnam unit. Despite intense enemy fire and adverse conditions, he fearlessly maneuvered his aircraft to a successful landing and evacuated the wounded. His bravery was recognized with a Presidential Citation for his exceptional service.

The Carmine A. Casciano Salute to Service Award honors his lasting legacy and steadfast dedication to the principles of duty, honor, and country during and after his service.

Among his many missions, one stands out as a testament to his courage.

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting a Gold Star in lieu of a Second Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to First Lieutenant Carmine A. Casciano, United States Marine Corps, for heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight while serving as Pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR (HMM-364), Marine Aircraft Group Sixteen, First Marine Aircraft Wing in connection with combat operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam.

Late on the night of 5 June 1969, Casciano launched as Section Leader of a flight of two CH-46 transport helicopters assigned the emergency medical evacuation of three casualties from an Army of the Republic of Vietnam unit which was heavily engaged in combat with a hostile force five miles southwest of DaNang.

Arriving over the designated area, he found that the friendly unit was under intense mortar, small arms, and automatic weapons fire and that the condition of one of the wounded men was highly critical. Despite the difficulties of maneuvering his aircraft in the darkness over the hazardous mountain terrain and a dense ground haze that further restricted visibility, First Lieutenant Casciano, guided only by a flashlight at the western edge of the landing zone, commenced his approach to the confined zone.

When his CH-46 reached an altitude of 200 feet, it suddenly came under an extremely heavy volume of enemy fire and was struck by several rounds, which caused him to abandon his landing attempt. However, after rapidly assessing the damage and performing several system checks, he found that all systems functioned properly and elected to continue his vital mission. Undaunted by the intensity of the hostile fire directed at his CH-46, Casciano coordinated his approach with the fire of supporting gunships, boldly maneuvered his aircraft to a landing in the small zone, and fearlessly remained in his precarious position until the casualties were embarked.

‘Lifting out of the dangerous area, he then departed for the hospital at DaNang. Casciano's courage, superior airmanship, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger were instrumental in the accomplishment of the hazardous mission and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.’

The Carmine A. Casciano Salute to Service Award is a tribute to his enduring legacy and unwavering commitment to the principles of duty, honor, and country. Recognizing his exceptional service and sacrifice, the Medic Now Foundation proudly honors Carmine's memory with the Carmine A. Casciano Salute to Service Award.

Award Criteria: The Carmine A. Casciano Salute to Service Award, a symbol of honor and prestige, is bestowed upon individuals who have demonstrated exceptional bravery, selflessness, and dedication to serving their country, particularly in challenging and adverse conditions.

Recipients of this prestigious award exhibit the following qualities:

1. Courage: They display remarkable courage in the face of danger and adversity, going above and beyond the call of duty to fulfill their responsibilities, thereby significantly impacting their service.

2. Selflessness: They prioritize the needs of others above their own, sacrificing personal comfort and safety to serve their country and fellow citizens.

3. Dedication: They show unwavering commitment and perseverance in their service, remaining steadfast in their mission despite obstacles and hardships.

4. Leadership: They demonstrate strong leadership qualities, inspiring and guiding others with integrity, honor, and professionalism.

5. Resilience: They exhibit resilience in the face of challenges, overcoming obstacles and adversity with determination and perseverance.

6. Service Above Self: They have the ethos of "service above self," embodying the highest ideals of duty, honor, and patriotism in their actions and conduct.

7. Exceptional Contribution: They make significant contributions to the defense and security of their nation, as well as their community, leaving a lasting and profound impact on their fellow service members, in and out of service.

The Carmine A. Casciano Salute to Service Award's recipients embody the spirit of honor, sacrifice, and valor, reflecting the highest traditions of military service and dedication to duty.