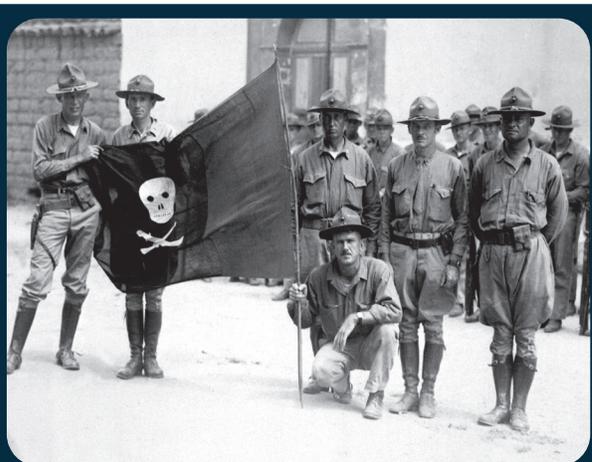




NAVY MEDICAL CORPS LEGENDS NAVY CROSS RECIPIENTS

- The Navy Cross is the **second highest combat honor** given to Navy personnel for “extraordinary heroism.”
- Since Feb. 4, 1919, when the award was established by Congress (Public Law 65-253), a total of **82 Navy physicians** have received the honor.
- The award is equivalent to the Army Distinguished Service Cross and the Air Force Cross.



TWO-TIME RECIPIENT

Out of the more than **6,300** Navy Crosses that have been awarded, there has been **only one physician to receive it twice**. Lt. (later Rear Adm.) **John Brooks O'Neill** was awarded the Navy Cross in **1927** and again in **1928** for efforts in the **Second Nicaraguan Campaign**.

FRANKLIN'S PHYSICIANS

- On March 19, 1945, while launching strikes against the Japanese mainland, a Japanese **dive bomber hit USS *Franklin's* (CV 13) hanger deck** with two bombs leading to a raging fire and detonation of the ship's ordnance.
- Despite recurrent blasts and poisonous fumes, the Navy physicians onboard **continued to administer to injured personnel and leading wounded Sailors to safety at risk of their own lives**.
- Navy physician Lt. Cmdrs. **George Fox** (posthumous), **James Fuelling** and **Samuel Sherman** were awarded the Navy Cross for their acts of heroism aboard USS *Franklin*.
- The attack on the *Franklin* ultimately led to **deaths of 724 Sailors and the wounding of 265**. But without the presence of mind and courageous actions of these physicians, there is no doubt that many more would have died.

Did you know?



In Aug. 1942, the qualifications for the Navy Cross was changed to heroism “**in connection with military operations against an armed enemy**.”





NAVY MEDICINE *FAST FACTS*



Did you know?

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC HERO

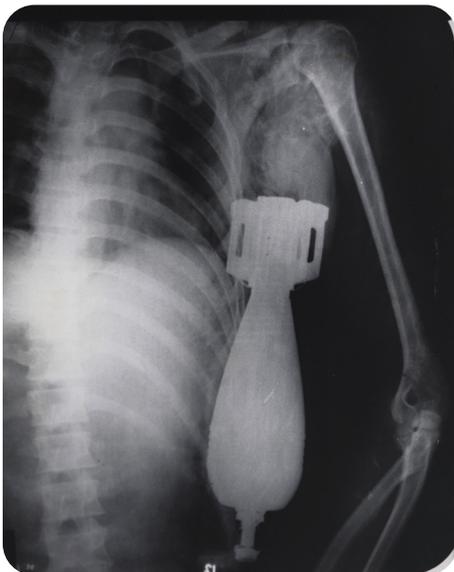
Lt. Cmdr. Lee McGuire was a physician based at the Naval Hospital Chelsea, Mass., in 1918 when the Influenza Pandemic hit. In 1919, he was awarded the Navy Cross for developing a “convalescent influenza-pneumonia serum” that reduced the mortality at the hospital from 38 to four percent.



LIVE ORDNANCE AND VIETNAM

- The Navy Cross was last awarded to Navy physicians in the Vietnam War. Capt. Harry Dinsmore, Lt. Cmdr. David Lewis, Lt. Cmdr. David Taft, and Lt. James Back each received the Navy Cross for removing live ordnance from wounded personnel.
- On Oct. 1, 1966, while serving as Chief of Surgery at the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Danang, Republic of Vietnam, Dinsmore removed a live 60 mm round stuck in the chest wall of a South Vietnamese soldier. The round contained between 1 and 2 pounds of TNT and a partially depressed firing pin. After the patient was sedated he was given a general anesthetic, intubated and then attached to an

automatic respirator. Seeing that the round should not be moved until lifted straight from the chest wall, Dinsmore made an elliptical incision completely around and away from the mortar shell, lifting the overlying soft tissues directly from the chest wall. Dinsmore completed the entire procedure in about a half hour. The patient returned to full duty status within 2 months.



- There have been 7 posthumous Navy Crosses awarded to physicians. Among them Lt. Cmdr. Edward Brown and Lt. Henry Ringness.
- On July 10, 1926, the Naval Ammunition Depot in Lake Denmark, New Jersey, was struck by lightning resulting in the detonation of several million pounds of explosives. Lt. Cmdr. Edward Brown led evacuation efforts and cared for casualties until he was killed in the inferno.
- Lt. Henry Ringness was a flight surgeon with Marine Air Group-14 during the Guadalcanal Campaign in 1942. During an enemy attack, Ringness was injured by a mortar explosion that paralyzed him below the waist. Despite his injuries, he continued to administer morphine and blood plasma to other casualties.
- Ringness later died of his wounds. The destroyer escort **USS Ringness (DE-590)** was named in his honor. He is one of 19 Navy physicians to have ships named after them.

