



THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Her name
will be remembered
in our hearts*

See next page

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
Willemstad, Curacao, N.W.I.
January 28, 1947.

20/1

His Excellency
Dr. P. A. Kasteel
Governor of Curacao

*Can of course be given
in great ceremony on an American ship.
The A.M.C.*

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to our conversation of last night regarding my Government's desire to present an award honoring seamen of foreign nationalities who gave their lives or were injured while in the service of the American Merchant Marine during World War II.

We are having a simple ceremony at our home this afternoon, 6:30 p.m., for the presentation posthumously to the following Curacaons:

Josephine Curiel, Daughter of Johannes Josef Curiel;
SS TEXAS, torpedoed March 13, 1942

Victoria Colastica Hernandez, Sister of Leon Hernandez;
SS MARIANNA, missing since March 3, 1942

Reinita Cecilia, Aunt of Peter Cecilia;
SS COAMA, missing since December 8, 1942

It is thought that you might desire to be present at this ceremony at which I shall convey the deep gratitude the Government of the United States feels for the sacrifices made by these seamen.

Accept, Excellency, renewed assurance of my highest consideration and esteem.

Lynn W. Franklin
Lynn W. Franklin
American Consul General

LWF:pml
File No. 090
Enclosed:

Three letters dated January 17, 1947

UNITED STATES MARITIME COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Office of the Chairman

January 17, 1947

Miss Reinita Cecilia
Sasumat No. 31
Curacao
Neth. West Indies

Dear Miss Cecilia:

By authority of the Congress of the United States, it is my honor to present to you, the aunt of Peter Cecilia, the Mariner's Medal in commemoration of the greatest service anyone can render cause or country.

Mr. Cecilia was serving in the S.S. COAMO which, on February 13, 1943, was reported missing with all hands. He was one of those men who so gallantly upheld the traditions of the hardy mariners who defied anyone to stop the American flag from sailing the seas in the early days of this republic. He was one of those men upon whom the Nation depended to keep our ships afloat upon the perilous seas; to transport our troops across those seas; and to carry to them the vitally needed materiel which kept them fighting until victory was certain and liberty secure.

Nothing I can do or say will, in any sense, requite the loss of your loved one. He has gone, but he has gone in honor and in the goodly company of patriots. Let me, in this expression of the country's deep sympathy, also express to you its gratitude for his devotion and sacrifice.

Sincerely yours,

William Ward Smith
Chairman

UNITED STATES MARITIME COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Office of the Chairman

January 17, 1947

Miss Josephine Curiel
c/o Curacao Trading Company
Curacao
Neth. West Indies

Dear Miss Curiel:

By authority of the Congress of the United States, it is my honor to present to you, the daughter of Johannes Josef Curiel, the Mariner's Medal in commemoration of the greatest service anyone can render cause or country.

Mr. Curiel was lost when his ship, the S.S. TEXAN, was torpedoed by the enemy March 15, 1942. He was one of those men who so gallantly upheld the traditions of the hardy mariners who defied anyone to stop the American flag from sailing the seas in the early days of this republic. He was one of those men upon whom the Nation depended to keep our ships afloat upon the perilous seas; to transport our troops across those seas; and to carry to them the vitally needed materiel which kept them fighting until victory was certain and liberty secure.

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Sincerely yours,

William Ward Smith
Chairman

UNITED STATES MARITIME COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Office of the Chairman

January 17, 1947

Miss Victoria Colastica Hernandez
Curacao
Neth. West Indies

Dear Miss Hernandez:

By authority of the Congress of the United States, it is my honor to present to you, the sister of Leon Hernandez, the Mariner's Medal in commemoration of the greatest service anyone can render cause or country.

Mr. Hernandez was serving in the S.S. MARIANNA which, on March 3, 1942, was reported missing with all hands. He was one of those men who so gallantly upheld the traditions of the hardy mariners who defied anyone to stop the American flag from sailing the seas in the early days of this republic. He was one of those men upon whom the Nation depended to keep our ships afloat upon the perilous seas; to transport our troops across those seas; and to carry to them the vitally needed materiel which kept them fighting until victory was certain and liberty secure.

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Sincerely yours,

William Ward Smith
Chairman