

# MISSOURI STATE SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*Proudly Honors*



**EUGENE JOSEPH CANTY**  
UNITED STATES ARMY OFFICER RESERVE  
CORPS – MEDICAL CORPS  
FIRST LIEUTENANT (O-2)  
JUNE 3, 1930 – JUNE 2, 1935

UNITED STATES NAVY – MEDICAL CORPS  
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER (O-4)  
MARCH 26, 1944 – JUNE 3, 1946

UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE –  
MEDICAL CORPS  
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER (O-4)  
JUNE 3, 1946 – FEBRUARY 5, 1954  
WOUNDED IN ACTION JANUARY 10, 1945

*as*

**PURPLE HEART PATRIOT  
JULY 2025**

*Thomas Canty, Honoring His Father's Service and Sacrifice*  
Sponsored by: **Reverend John Clark Chapter, NSDAR**



Eugene Joseph Canty was born on March 19, 1907, in St. Louis, Missouri, the only child of William Daniel Canty and Margaret (Casey) Canty. In 1917, when Eugene was 10 years old, his father died of tuberculosis. In 1924, after graduating from Yeatman High School, Eugene enrolled at St. Louis University, where he majored in medicine, graduating in 1930 with a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) and Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degrees. Dr. Canty then completed a year of medical internship at St. John's Hospital in St. Louis. In 1931, he entered into general practice in St. Charles, Missouri, as an associate with another physician, Dr. Jenkins, where he remained until 1944, a period of 13 years. Dr. Eugene Canty married Dorothy Emmons in 1934, and they had two children: Barbara, born in 1935, and Thomas, born in 1939.

As Dr. Canty did not talk much about his WWII experience, his family did not know many of the details of his service. Much of the information in this article was obtained from his files at the National Archives in St. Louis, where fortunately, U.S. Navy records from WWII were not affected by the 1973 fire at the St. Louis Records Center.

Dr. Canty's first military service was in the U.S. Army. On June 3, 1930, he was commissioned as a first lieutenant and joined the U.S. Army Officer Reserve Corps – Medical Corps, and served until June 2, 1935, a period of five years.

On January 13, 1944, during World War II, Dr. Canty, 37 years old with two small children at home, volunteered for military service, applying for a commission with the United States Naval Reserve Medical Corps (USNR-MC). The application asked why he chose the Navy as his preference, and he responded that he felt "the Navy offers a superior type of medical service." His appointment paperwork stated: "Passed Assistant Surgeon with rank of Lieutenant," and his specialty was listed as "General Practice." Lt. Canty was placed on active duty with the USNR-MC, serving from March 26, 1944, to June 3, 1946. His records indicate that he capably operated surgically during his military service despite surgery not being his specialty.

Lieutenant Canty's first active-duty assignment was the U.S. Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas, serving as a medical officer in the dispensary for two months. Coincidentally, for his next assignment, Lt. Canty and another physician from St. Charles, Missouri, Lt. George E. Kister, were both sent to the Amphibious Training Base, Camp Bradford, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Virginia. This was a training center for the crews of Landing Ship Tank (LST), which are ships used by amphibious forces to land troops, tanks, and other heavy equipment directly on beaches. Lt. Canty served there for three months, again as a medical officer in the dispensary. His next orders directed him to report to the commander of the LST Group Seventeen for duty as medical officer. He was assigned to LST Group Staff 17, Flotilla 6, where he served as senior medical officer for 18 months, initially onboard the USS LST 1028, later on USS LST 628. In relating his father's WWII service, Lt. Canty's son, Thomas Canty, mentioned that his father could not swim, so it was ironic that he joined the Navy and served on a ship.

While onboard the USS LST 1028, Lt. Canty experienced a Navy tradition, a ceremony featuring the awarding of a certificate, "Imperium Neptuni Regi," also known as a Shellback certificate, given the first time that a sailor crosses the equator. It was signed by the ship's captain and awarded to him on October 25, 1944, while they were bound south for the equator toward the Solomon Islands, New Guinea. Lt. Canty kept the certificate and framed it when he returned home.

Lt. Canty's unit, as part of the Lingayen Attack Force, participated in the assault landing operations at Lingayen, Luzon, Philippine Islands, January 9-31, 1945. It was during this mission that Lt. Canty earned both the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

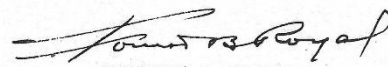
Lt. Canty never mentioned to his family the details surrounding his Purple Heart Medal; what injuries he sustained and what caused them. However, January 10, 1945, the date cited

COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS GROUP SIX  
U. S. PACIFIC FLEET  
C/O FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

In the name of the President of the United States and by direction of the Secretary of the Navy, and the Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet, the PURPLE HEART MEDAL is awarded by the Commander Amphibious Group SIX, United States Pacific Fleet, to

LIEUTENANT EUGENE J. CANTY, MC,  
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for wounds received in action against an enemy of the United States on 10 January 1945.

  
FORREST B. ROYAL,  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

LIEUTENANT EUGENE JOSEPH CANTY, MEDICAL CORPS  
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

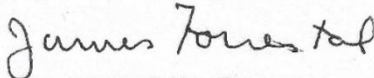
for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For meritorious service as Medical Officer of the U.S.S. LST 1028 during operations against enemy Japanese forces on Luzon, Philippine Islands, in January of 1945. Although light and power were cut off and medical equipment and supplies were damaged when his vessel struck an enemy mine, Lieutenant Canty administered first aid and treatment to casualties for thirty-six hours without rest. Later, he supervised the evacuation of the wounded and assisted in the re-establishment of sanitary living conditions. By his professional skill and devotion to duty, Lieutenant Canty contributed greatly to the saving of many lives and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Lieutenant Canty is authorized to wear the Combat "V"

For the President,

  
Secretary of the Navy

in his Purple Heart citation as the date of his injuries, coincides with the date that his ship struck an enemy mine, resulting in an underwater explosion, so his injuries occurred during this enemy action.

Lieutenant Canty's records indicate that the Bronze Star Medal was presented to him by authority of the Commander, THIRD Amphibious Force, United States Pacific Fleet. The citation lists the details of his service for which he was awarded the medal.

After the USS LST 1028 was damaged by an enemy mine, Lt. Canty was transferred to the USS LST 628 on January 31, 1945. The Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals were presented to Lt. Canty in a shipboard ceremony on September 16, 1945. Lt. Canty's son,

Thomas Canty, provided photos of the shipboard ceremony, which had been stored in a scrapbook.

Thomas Canty told of another experience his father had during his WWII service. Lt. Canty developed appendicitis and needed surgery, but he was the only doctor on his ship. He had to be transferred from his ship, USS LST 628, via a special wire-basket stretcher, known as a Stokes stretcher, suspended by ropes like an air gondola, to an ambulance boat and then to the U.S. Naval Fleet Hospital No. 103, Guam, for surgery. Thomas Canty said that his father's appendix had ruptured by the time he had the surgery. Lt. Canty reported to the fleet hospital on May 29, 1945, and completed his treatment there on June 22, 1945. After confirming the location of his ship, USS LST 628, he was provided transportation back to it to resume his duties.

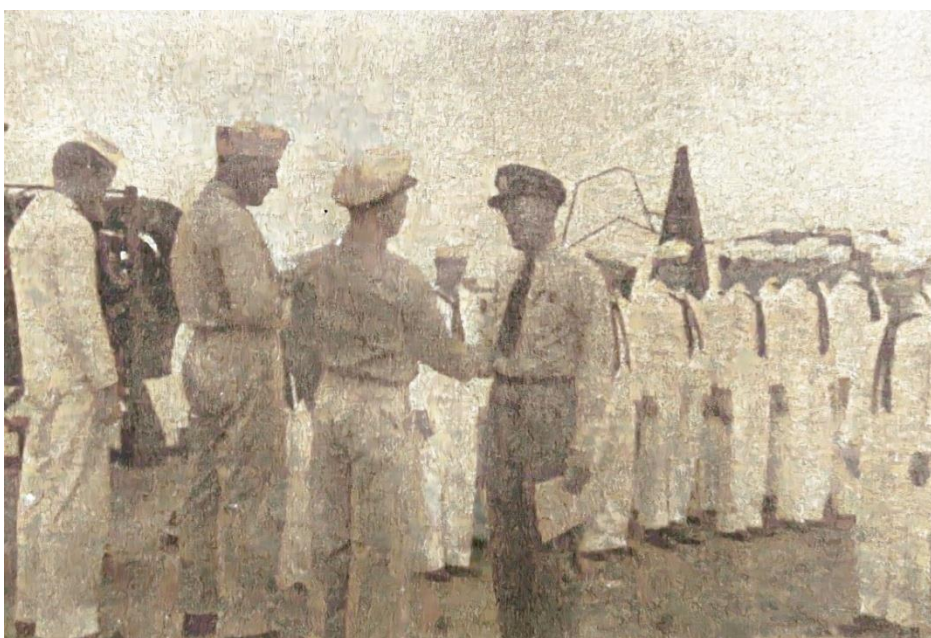
On January 23, 1946, for his last active-duty assignment, Lt. Canty was reassigned stateside to the Naval Personnel Separation Center, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Norman, Oklahoma, as a medical officer. He was promoted to lieutenant commander on June 1, 1946, and released from active duty on June 3, 1946; however, he remained in the U.S. Naval Reserves Medical Corps until February 5, 1954.

Lieutenant Commander Canty's medals and awards for his WWII service were: Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Combat "V," Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon with two stars, American Theatre Campaign Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star, and Victory Ribbon World War II. Lieutenant Commander Canty's records note that he was authorized to wear the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and one bronze operation star for participation in the initial landings on Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, January 9, 1945. It was also noted that he participated, with



credit, in the initial invasion of Okinawa, Tykuku Islands, on April 1, 1945, for which he was authorized to wear a bronze operation star on the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon. Since he received two bronze operation stars for his Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, the second star was probably for his participation in the Lingayen, Luzon, landing operations.

After his World War II service, Dr. Canty returned to St. Charles, Missouri, where he resumed his private medical practice. He also served on the infirmary staff at Lindenwood College as their college physician. In 1986, upon his retirement after 55 years of medical practice, he received a Resolution from the Missouri House of Representatives documenting his medical and civic service to the St. Charles community, as well as his distinguished wartime service. Dr. Canty died on December 23, 1997, at the age of 90. He is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in St. Charles, Missouri, in a family plot along with his wife, mother, and aunt.



# Missouri House of Representatives



## Resolution

WHEREAS, the Missouri House of Representatives is fully cognizant of the important role which members of the medical profession play in serving the health care needs of the citizens of this great state and nation; and

WHEREAS, for the past fifty-five years the citizens of St. Charles, Missouri, have received the finest in professional health care because of the dedication, competence and expertise demonstrated by Eugene J. Canty, M.D.; and

WHEREAS, a 1930 graduate of the St. Louis University Medical School, Dr. Canty came to the community of St. Charles in 1931 as an associate of Dr. Frank Tainter and later shared offices with J. M. Jenkins, M.D., before opening his practice in the Denwol Building in 1946; and

WHEREAS, during his long and illustrious medical career, Dr. Canty distinguished himself as Physician at Lindenwood College and as a member of the staff at St. Joseph Hospital, where he put forth great effort not only in the treatment of his patients, but in the modernization and expansion of the facility itself; and

WHEREAS, the community of St. Charles, Missouri, has also greatly benefited from the talent, energy and experience of Dr. Canty through his outstanding service as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and as a member of the Board of Directors for Union Savings Bank; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Canty's commitment to the community of St. Charles stems from an even greater concern for his fellowman as a humanitarian and loyal patriot who gave of himself for his country in service with the United States Navy during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Canty's military record is highlighted by his service on an L.S.T. in the Pacific and by his participation in the Leyte Gulf and Okinawa invasions, service for which he had been awarded both the Purple Heart and the Silver Star; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Canty could not have given so much to so many without the constant loving support and encouragement of his devoted wife of more than fifty-one years, Dorothy, and their two wonderful children, Thomas P. Canty and Mrs. Barbara Gossow;

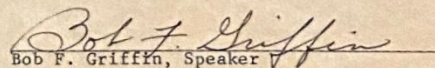
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Eighty-third General Assembly, join the citizenry of St. Charles, Missouri, in a thunderous round of applause as a special tribute of appreciation, congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Eugene Canty upon the event of his retirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Dr. Eugene J. Canty.

Offered by Representative Douglas Boschert



I, Bob F. Griffin, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Eighty-third General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 49, adopted January 23, 1986.

  
Bob F. Griffin, Speaker

**"Salus Populi Suprema Lex Esto"**



# IMPERIVM NEPTVNI REGIS

TO ALL SAILORS WHEREVER YE MAY BE: and to all Mermaids, Whales, Sea Serpents, Dolphins, Sharks, Dolphins, Eels, Skates, Tuckers, Crabs, Lobsters and all other Living Things of the Sea  
GREETING: Know ye, That on this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1944 in Latitude 0000 and Longitude 176° 18'  
there appeared within Our Royal Domain the USS - AS7 1028 bound South for the Equator  
and for: **Solomon Islands - New Guinea**  
**BE IT REMEMBERED**

That the said Vessel and Officers and Crew thereof have been inspected and passed on by Ourself and Our Royal Staff  
And Be It Known: By all ye Sailors, Marines, Land lubbers and others who may be honored by his presence that

**EUGENE JOSEPH CANTY**

having been found worthy to be numbered as one of our Trusty Shellbacks he has been duly initiated into the  
**SOLEMN MYSTERIES OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF THE DEEP**

Be It Further Understood: That by virtue of the power invested in me I do hereby command  
all my subjects to show due honor and respect to him wherever he may be  
Disobey this order under penalty of Our Royal Displeasure  
Given under our hand and seal this 25 October 1944



**Dorsey Jones**  
His Majesty's Scribe



**Neptunus Rex**  
Ruler of the Raging Main  
By his Sarvent **Charles H. Hays** Cdr, USN

