

On Lecture Tour,
Salt Lake City, Utah.

Jan. 8, 1931.

Hom Schuyler Merritt,
Congressman from Connecticut
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

I appreciate deeply the assistance you are giving to Harold I. June in getting recognition for him from Congress for his services to his country.

June made with me every flight of exploration including the flight to the South Pole. On these flights he acted as relief pilot, mechanic and radio operator. He made a very great contribution to the success of all of these flights. His contribution to the success of the whole expedition was also great. He gave to his leader at all times loyalty that was unswerving even under the most difficult possible conditions. His courage was perfect.

June has a wide range of knowledge which made him most useful to the Expedition. He possessed efficiency to a degree seldom met with and he put in many hours of toil and labor to make the Expedition successful, and gave himself far above the call of duty.

Again let me tell you how much I appreciate what you are doing for June. I can assure you that his contribution to the success of our Expedition was so outstanding that he deserves reward from his country.

With kindest regards.

Respectfully yours,

Dublin, New Hampshire

August 6, 1930.

From: Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, U. S. N., retired.
To: Secretary of the Navy.
Via: Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics.
Chief of the Bureau of Navigation.

Subject: Harold I. June, Chief Aviation Pilot, U. S. N. -
Recommendation for award of Distinguished Flying Cross.

Reference: (a) Letter to Secretary of the Navy, July 9th, 1930.

Enclosure: (1) Copy of reference (a).

1. Supplementing the report on the services of Harold I. June, Chief Aviation Pilot, as a member of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition, reference (a), I recommend the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross for the participation of the above named man in the flight over the South Pole, November 29, 1929.

2. Chief Aviation Pilot June was the Navy's official representative on the expedition, and as Leader of the expedition, I take pleasure in recommending this award, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order of January 28, 1927.

3. June, by reason of his exceptional qualifications as a pilot, mechanic and radio operator, was selected as one of a crew of four, to attempt the flight to the South Pole.

4. The tri-motor Ford plane, "Floyd Bennett", in which June was a member of the crew, took off from the expedition's base at Little America, Antarctica, on the afternoon of November 28, 1929, and after a flight which was made under the most difficult conditions, reached the vicinity of the South Pole at 1.13 A. M., November 29, 1929, where the American flag was dropped.

5. This flight was hazardous for several reasons, among which was the necessity of flying with a very heavy load over the Queen Maud Range in order to reach the Polar Plateau. The Polar Plateau is from nine to ten thousand feet above sea level and a forced landing on it would have been uncertain. Had there been an emergency landing anywhere near the South Pole, it is probable that the crew would not have been able to walk back to safety.

6. Throughout the flight, June performed his duties as relief pilot, radio operator and fuel engineer, with calmness, courage and extraordinary ability, and on the return flight from the Pole, was at the controls when the plane landed at the mountain base for refueling, in rough area. I cannot speak too highly of the part he played in the successful completion of this flight. He upheld in every way the highest traditions of the Navy.

7. Since the date of the act for which this recommendation is made, June's services have in all respects been honorable.

R. E. Byrd.

Dublin, New Hampshire

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R. E. Byrd.

5 November 1937

My dear Governor:

I am most grateful to you for your friendly letter. It is really splendid of you to do this for our expedition.

It appears now that there will only be one member of my expedition to receive the Medal in Connecticut - Harold I. June, of Stamford, Conn.

June was a member of both of my Antarctic Expeditions. He was Aviation Pilot and Radio Operator on the first expedition and acted in that capacity on the flight to the South Pole, November 29, 1929. On the second expedition, June was in charge of the Aviation Division and was the Chief Pilot. As such he took part in practically all the major flights of discovery and exploration. He was also Chief of Staff of the Second Expedition.

June is a warrant Officer in the U.S. Navy and has had fourteen years service and his service has been of an outstanding character.

As a matter of interest I am enclosing a copy of the inscription on the face of the Medal. I am also sending you a copy of the Resolution passed by Congress on the return of the Expedition to the United States in 1935.

June is at present at the Allyn Hotel in Hartford. If you will let me know when it will be most convenient for you to make the presentation of the Medal, I will arrange to have June present and will also send the medal to you.

With kindest regards,

Faithfully yours,

Hon. Wilbur L. Cross
The Executive Chambers
Hartford, Conn.