

Congressional Medal of Honor Winners #1

By C.E. Warner 1-18-22

James H. Howard was a fighter pilot during WWII. He was a volunteer with the Flying Tigers in China and was credited with six kills. After Pearl, he joined the Army Air Corp and was assigned to the European theatre. He commanded a fighter squadron out of England. In January 1944 he was flying cover for a bombing run into Germany when he was separated from his squadron. The bombers were jumped by 30 German fighters. Single-handedly, he fought them for 30 minutes and shot down six. Even after running out of ammo, he stayed with the bombers, making runs at the fighters until they left. For his valor, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. He later helped direct the air cover for D-Day in June. He was awarded 15 medals for his bravery during the war.

Before war served on Enterprise; resigned
for Flying Tigers in China to fly.
Six kills in combat while patrol assigned.
After Pearl, returned air corp. to apply.

Led fighters over European skies.
Separated while protecting bomber run.
Thirty bandits appear before their eyes.
Stayed to cover bombers with only one gun.

Miraculous survival is legend.
Six kills, no bombers lost, a medal won.
Promoted, covered invasion session.
Double ace, stayed until battles are done.

Brigadier General end of service,
civilian success, life of purpose.