

# Albert Smith Jr.

U.S. Marine Guard  
Pensacola Naval Air Station  
Congressional Medal of Honor recipient



On February 11, 1921, a Navy Seaplane was being warmed up on the bay by mechanics and suddenly took flight. The plane fluttered briefly overhead and then plunged to the ground exploding 25 feet from Albert's guard post. Even though the gasoline covered wreckage was burning fiercely, Smith plunged into the flames and pulled out one of the crewmen who later died and then rescued the second who was lying in the path of the flames. Smith was in the hospital for several weeks bed ridden from severe burns received about his head, face and both hands. Raised on a farm across from the Thompson cemetery on M149, Smith attributed his fame to the strict rural upbringing of his parents who guided him through his childhood. He pointed out that on the farm, you learn to do your job, and you do it. Stating that he did nothing more than anyone else would do under the circumstances, the Navy through different and awarded Smith the highest award in the military.