

## Aid to the Benevolence

# Fishermen Honored for Rescue Work

On the night of August 25 three fishing boats, the Flora, John Napoli, master; the San Dominico, Dominic DiMare, master, and the Angie Francis, Dominic Tringali, master, cruised slowly in dense fog off the Golden Gate.

Aboard were 69 shivering survivors of the sunken hospital ship Benevolence. The fishermen had dumped valuable cargoes of salmon overboard and searched for hours to gather the survivors.

Yesterday the Navy recognized this "outstanding humanitarian service" in a simple ceremony at Treasure Island.

Vice Admiral George D. Murray, commander of the Western Sea Frontier, thanked each man and

handed him a parchment which will reimburse the fishermen for the loss of their cargoes.

read, in part: "The service rendered in saving the lives of fellow men is worthy of the highest tribute from all."

Then the admiral thanked Salvatore Bramante and Dominic Fruciano, who as crewmen aboard two of the boats, also helped.

But the best news was saved for the last. The Navy announced it

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TUESDAY, SEPT. 19, 1950  
San Francisco Chronicle

# HERB CAEN

## Baghdad-by-the-Bay

### Sunday Stuff and Things:

**OF HUMAN INTEREST:** Three S.F. heroes are about to be rewarded for saving 69 lives. Their names are Dominic Tringali, John Napoli and Dominic DiMare, and chances are you never heard of 'em. . . . The two Dominics and John are quiet, hard-working No. Beach fishermen who, by mere coincidence happened to be nearby on that dark day when the USS Benevolence was sunk off the G'Gate. Their three little boats were full of fish, but they didn't think twice. They dumped their pay-loads and part of their gear—and pulled 69 survivors out of the icy waters, 69 people who might otherwise have been lost. . . . Tringali, Napoli and DiMare haven't asked for thanks, but they're getting it anyway—tomorrow on Treasure Island. Vice Admiral Geo. D. Murray will present them with Navy "meritorious service" citations. And they'll be reimbursed for their fish by a gift of cash from the special fund of the Secty. of the Navy himself.



# United States Navy



The United States Navy recognizes with gratitude the meritorious service rendered by Dominick Di Mari in the rescue of U. S. Navy and civilian personnel following the sinking of USS Benevolence on 25 August 1950, off San Francisco, California.

The outstanding humanitarian service rendered in saving the lives of his fellow man follows the best traditions of seafaring men and is worthy of the highest tribute from all.

*George D. Murray*  
GEORGE D. MURRAY

Vice Admiral, United States Navy  
Commander Western Sea Frontier and  
Commander Pacific Reserve Fleet



8 July 1985

Mr. Dominic J. DiMare  
[REDACTED]  
San Francisco, CA 94121

Dear Mr. DiMare:

On 25 August 1950, the Navy hospital ship Benevolence sank in San Francisco Bay. I was one of those rescued by a fishing boat -- later I was able to visit one of the homes of one of the men on the boat to express my thanks for being rescued.

I was told that the men on the boat that night were Dominic DiMare, Carmelo Patania, and Dominic Fruciano...I never got to meet any of these men because they were at sea when I visited the home.

This letter is written to tell you that I still feel great gratitude -- I still remember -- neither my family nor I will ever forget the actions of courage and sacrifice that saved us.

If you, or members of your family, wish to exchange letters, to share some memories of this event, I will be very happy to do so.

To you, and to all your family, I am sending my thanks-- with all wishes for your good health and happiness.

Sincerely yours,

*Harry Treber*

Harry Treber  
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