

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, my name is Eric Bresnahan. Recently, came across a bit of family history regarding my father who had apparently served aboard the USS Somers during its first year at sea. His name was Robert Donald Bresnahan. Through some quick research, I found your site and thought I would pass along some information for you in the case you would like to add it.

What I found was a letter written by the ships commander to my grandmother regarding my father receiving the first Sailor of the Year Award on the USS Somers. Here is a copy of the letter:

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Dear Mrs. Bresnahan,

It is a real pleasure for a commanding officer to write the family of one of his crewmembers in order to tell them of his achievements. I am sure you are already aware of the honor that has been bestowed on your son by his shipmates – the officers and men of SOMERS. However, I take this occasion to send my own personal regards to congratulate you on the achievements of your fine son.

On 3 April 1960, the first anniversary of SOMERS, it was my pleasure to present the SOMERS Outstanding Sailor of the Year Award to your son. The Mrs. Charles E. Wilson Outstanding Sailor of the Year Trophy was presenting to the USS SOMERS by the ship's sponsor, Mrs. Wilson, the trophy is to be engraved each year with the name of the award winner Robert Bresnahan has the honor of being the first of many outstanding sailormen whose name will appear on this trophy in the years to come. This award is made each year on the SOMERS' anniversary to the most representative sailor aboard the USS SOMERS who during the previous year has distinguished himself in his own advancement in rating or in his preparation for such advancement and who, by his overall interest and helpfulness in all ships activities, has contributed to a marked degree of the success of the USS SOMERS. In summation, this SOMERS sailor, of all, will be the best.

The presentation was made at sea on Sunday, 3 April while SOMERS was operating as a unit of a U.S. Seventh Fleet fast carrier task group in the Western Pacific. Your son received the award before the assembled ship's company in what I believe to be an ideal setting for the presentation, that is a sailorman on board his ship, operating as a unit of our own United States Fleet in support of our great country's international policies.

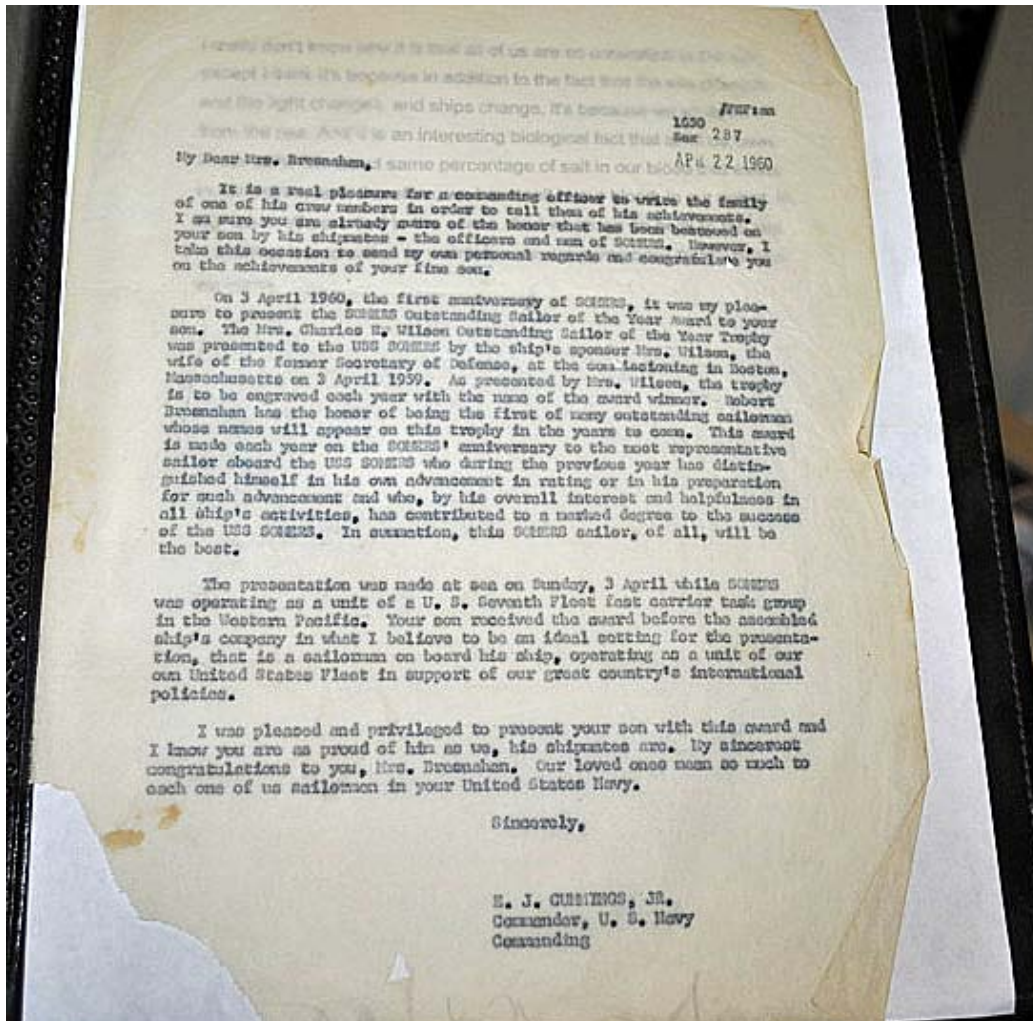
I was pleased and privileged to present your son with this award and I know you are proud of him as we, his shipmates, are. My sincerest congratulations to you, Mrs. Bresnahan. Our loved ones mean so much to each of us sailormen in your United States Navy.

Sincerely,

E.J. Cummings Jr.  
Commander, U.S. Navy  
Commanding.  
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In addition, here is a photo taken of the actual letter, which has seen better days.

<http://s104.photobucket.com/albums/m179/TeamPointBlank/?action=view&current=DSC0745.jpg>



I do not suppose any one might have access to a picture of the awarded with the names engraved on it by chance?

At any rate, please feel free to use and distribute this as you see fit. My father passed away when I was younger from cancer in the winter of 2000. He was 62 at his passing. I did not get a chance to talk about his career much and he didn't speak of it frequently, but I know he served proudly and always looked fondly on his time in the Navy, so much so that my oldest brother enlisted and recently retired as an E-9 after 23 years of service, most of which as a corpsman aboard the USS Norfolk Nuclear submarine.

Thank you for the website, it meant a lot to me seeing it and thank you for your time.

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Sincerely,

Eric Bresnahan