

## James Richard Ward



<b>Born</b>	September 10, 1921 Springfield, Ohio
<b>Died</b>	December 7, 1941 (aged 20) Killed in the Attack on Pearl Harbor
<b>Allegiance</b>	United States of America
<b>Service/branch</b>	United States Navy
<b>Years of service</b>	1940 – 1941
<b>Rank</b>	Seaman First Class
<b>Unit</b>	USS <i>Oklahoma</i>
<b>Battles/wars</b>	World War II
<b>Awards</b>	Medal of Honor

**James Richard Ward** (September 10, 1921 – December 7, 1941) was a US Navy sailor who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Born in Springfield, Ohio, Ward enlisted in the United States Navy at Cincinnati, Ohio, on November 25, 1940. After basic training, he reported on board the battleship USS *Oklahoma* (BB-37).

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, *Oklahoma* took three torpedoes soon after the attack began. She listed dangerously, and it was soon apparent that she would capsize. The order was given to abandon ship, but Seaman First Class Ward remained in a turret holding a flashlight, thus sacrificing his own life to permit other members of the crew to escape. For his heroism at that time, he posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

### **Citation**

For conspicuous devotion to duty, extraordinary courage and complete disregard of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, during the attack on the Fleet in Pearl Harbor by Japanese forces on 7 December 1941. When it was seen that the U.S.S. *Oklahoma* was going to capsize and the order was given to abandon ship, Ward remained in a turret holding a flashlight so the remainder of the turret crew could see to escape, thereby sacrificing his own life.