

AVIATION ORDNANCE MARINE OF THE YEAR



THE GAINES B. GILBERT AWARD

Presented by THE MARINE CORPS AVIATION ASSOCIATION *to*

Established in Honor of Master Gunnery Sergeant Gaines B. Gilbert, a Leader in the Field of Aviation Ordnance, Who Served with Distinction for Thirty-nine Years.

In Recognition of
The Most Outstanding
Ordnance Technician
Serving in Marine Aviation.



RAYTHEON

- 2010 Sgt Cleavland Smith
- 2009 GySgt Sean C. Kuitauskas
- 2008 Sgt Brian D. Kolterman
- 2007 Sgt J. D. Quigley
- 2006 Sgt J. H. Barr
- 2005 Sgt B. A. Roczicka
- 2004 SSgt Carl E. Moser
- 2003 Sgt Zachary F. Ritter
- 2002 Sgt B.D. Auten
- 2001 SSgt Gary L. Shopper
- 2000 SSgt Michael T. Kuzniar
- 1999 Sgt Sally D. Morris
- 1998 Sgt Anthony J. Ramos
- 1997 SSgt Mark A. Mitchell
- 1996 Sgt Porfirio A. Velasquez-Torres
- 1995 SSgt Gary L. Glisan
- 1994 SSgt Lisa A. Borbe
- 1993 SSgt John A. Graboski

SERGEANT

NICHOLAS W. PASSAGE



Award Citation

Sergeant Nicholas W. Passage's leadership ability and technical expertise while serving as Noncommissioned Officer-in-Charge, Ordnance Division from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010 directly contributed to the squadron's operations out of Forward Operating Bases in Afghanistan. Sergeant Passage served as an Aviation Ordnance Collateral Duty Inspector and Quality Assurance Safety Observer in support of training and contingency operations. His ability to effectively train young aviation ordnance Marines into a proficient ordnance team proved critical to operations with Class V (A) Munitions, and allowed for successful completion of all required training. Sergeant Passage supervised the embarkation of aircraft armament equipment from Kandahar Airfield to Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, positively impacting VMA-231's ability to begin flight operations upon the squadron's return. Sergeant Passage's high professional standards and ability to anticipate and complete all tasks and missions with total dedication to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of Marine Corps aviation.



21 May 2011