Age 59 — **Blessing**

1 Mar 1942 • NAVY CROSS

For these actions, Rentz was posthumously awarded the United States Navy's second highest award for valor, the Navy Cross [see NOTES]

Age 59 — **Death**

1 Mar 1942 • sinking of the USS HOUSTON

Chaplain Rentz had less than one year to serve before retiring. https://en.wikipedia.org /wiki/George_S._Rentz

Burial

1948 • Manila American Memorial

56768698 * PH & NAVY CROSS

Origin

30 Jun 1984 • commissioning of USS RENTZ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Rentz_(FFG-46)
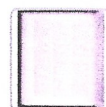
U.S. Veterans' Gravesites, ca.1775-2006

U.S., College Student Lists, 1763-1924

U.S., Navy and Marine Corps Registries, 1814-1992

U.S., Navy Casualties Books, 1776-1941

Web Links

USS RENTZ
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Rentz_(FFG-46)

Notes

It was during the abandonment of the sinking Houston that Commander Rentz entered the water and attained partial safety along with other crewmembers on a destroyed airplane's float. Seeing extreme overcrowding and the fact that the pontoon was taking on water, he attempted to relinquish his space and lifejacket to wounded survivors nearby. He declared "You men are young, I have lived the major part of my life and I am willing to go."[3] According to Houston survivor Private Jim Gee, no one would oblige the generous, fearless chaplain. Each time Rentz attempted to leave he was brought back by his shipmates. He ultimately relinquished his lifejacket to Seaman First Class Walter L. Beeson, who recounts that Rentz "told me his heart was failing him; told me he couldn't last much longer." Following a brief prayer, the Chaplain gave the lifejacket to Beeson, who refused to put it on. Rentz kicked away from the float and disappeared. Gee recalled "No one realized what had happened. It's just one of those things that one minute he's there, and the next minute... he wasn't." When Beeson realized that Rentz was gone, he put on the lifejacket. For these actions, Rentz was posthumously awarded the United States Navy's second highest award for valor, the Navy Cross.