

South Dakota Medal of Honor Recipients

Joseph Jacob Foss

Rank and organization:

Captain, U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Marine Fighting Squadron
121, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Place and date:

Over Guadalcanal,
October 9 – November 19, 1942
And January, 1943

Entered service at:

South Dakota

Born:

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Memorial Dedication:

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Citation:

For outstanding heroism and courage above and beyond the call of duty as executive officer of Marine Fighting Squadron 121, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, at Guadalcanal. Engaging in almost daily combat with the enemy from October 9 to November 19, 1942, Capt. Foss personally shot down 23 Japanese planes and damaged others so severely that their destruction was extremely probable. In addition, during this period, he successfully led a large number of escort missions, skillfully covering reconnaissance, bombing, and photographic planes as well as surface craft. On 15 January 1943, he added three more enemy planes to his already brilliant successes for a record of aerial combat achievement unsurpassed in this war. Boldly searching out an approaching enemy force on January 25, Capt. Foss led his eight F-4F Marine planes and four Army P-38's into action and, undaunted by tremendously superior numbers, intercepted and struck with such force that four Japanese fighters were shot down and the bombers were turned back without releasing a single bomb. His remarkable flying skill, inspiring leadership, and indomitable fighting spirit were distinctive factors in the defense of strategic American positions on Guadalcanal.

To hear Captain Joe Foss's story, click link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjUMb14LMb0>

