



BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

THE SILVER STAR

IS PRESENTED TO

PLATOON SERGEANT (THEN STAFF SERGEANT) JORGE OTERO-BARRETO

UNITED STATES ARMY

For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 17 February 1968. Staff Sergeant Otero distinguished himself while serving as a platoon sergeant on a combat operation near Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Otero's platoon was moving through rice paddies and woodlines on an overcast and partially rainy day when the point made contact with enemy positions concealed in a hedgerow. The enemy was firing rocket propelled grenades and machine guns and the point element had taken several casualties when Staff Sergeant Otero took over the machine gun. With no assistance, as the machine gunner had been wounded and his assistant killed, Staff Sergeant Otero began returning the enemy fire so that the point could break contact with the numerically superior and well-concealed enemy force. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Staff Sergeant Otero remained exposed to the intense enemy fire while the point began to withdraw. Because of the heavy volume of fire he was placing on them, the enemy ceased firing on the rest of the point element and concentrated on Staff Sergeant Otero. Although he was wounded by a rocket propelled grenade, Staff Sergeant Otero remained exposed to the enemy fire until the rest of his element had moved to a defilade position. Having expended all the ammunition for the machine gun, Staff Sergeant Otero began firing his rifle and crawled back to rejoin the rest of the point. He then led them in an orderly withdrawal to safety. Staff Sergeant Otero's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong force was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.