

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division
APO San Francisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 8456

8 July 1969

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

COUNTS, KENNETH E
San Francisco 96383

SERGEANT Company A 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry APO

Awarded: The Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device

Effective month: NA

Date action: 13 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism in ground combat against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 13 May 1969. Sergeant Counts distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as a team leader in Company A, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company A was in the process of fortifying Fire Support Base Airborne, in the mountains west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. Early in the morning of the cited date, the fire base was hit by an intense enemy mortar attack and sapper assault launched by elements of three North Vietnamese Army battalions. Sergeant Counts grabbed his M-16 rifle and ran out of his bunker. Observing a burning bunker to his front, he moved through the intense fire to the flaming structure and pulled out a friendly soldier who had been blinded by fragments from exploding satchel charges. He carried the wounded man to a secure bunker and immediately returned to the action. He again saw an enemy sapper preparing to engage another friendly bunker, and he silenced the insurgent before he could employ the satchel charge. He then aided in the evacuation of the wounded soldiers to a rear area. Sergeant Counts' personal bravery and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President of the United States under the provisions of Executive Order 11046.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

M. H. MURLEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

for ML Marsh MAT AGC
DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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