

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

8 July 1969

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE

TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BRAUNCO, ANTHONY J                      SERGEANT Company E 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st Infantry  
APO San Francisco 96383

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 Branco distinguished himself while serving as a mortar squad leader in Company E, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, at Fire Support Base Airborne, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 0330 hours on the cited date, the fire base was attacked by an estimated battalion of North Vietnamese Army soldiers. The insurgents fought through the perimeter and spread throughout the fire base, throwing satchel charges and firing automatic weapons. Despite the enemy fire and shrapnel from exploding mortar rounds, Sergeant Branco remained at his mortar position, firing illumination rounds into the early morning darkness. A satchel charge thrown within a few feet of his mortar tube wounded the ammunition bearer. After Sergeant Branco moved the wounded ammunition bearer to a safe location and administered first aid, he had the double task of supplying the mortar tube with ammunition and firing the illumination rounds. Although the early morning darkness hindered visibility, he made several trips to the ammunition storage point. In the process of carrying an armful of ammunition to the mortar position, he received shrapnel in his hip. Despite the painful shrapnel wounds, he was determined to have the mortar position remain operational. He succeeded in maintaining almost continuous illumination over the fire base until daylight arrived. Sergeant Branco's 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 M. L. Marsh MAJ AGC*

DALE H. HAYES  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

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