

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 3645

29 JULY 1968

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

1. The following AWARD is announced.

CONNER, DEFOREST S. RA PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E-3 United States Army  
Co C, 1st Battalion (Abn), 501st Infantry, 2d Brigade, 101st Abn Div,  
APO 96347

Awarded: Distinguished Service Cross

Date action: 04 February 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry (Airborne), 101st Airborne Division. Private First Class Conner distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 4 February 1968 as a rifleman of an airmobile infantry company conducting a search and clear operation in the Hai Lang area. His platoon was advancing toward a village believed to be an enemy stronghold when it was suddenly taken under intense hostile automatic weapons fire from the right flank. Private Conner noticed that under intense hostile automatic weapons fire from the right flank. Private Conner noticed that the fire seemed to be coming from a large enemy bunker adjacent to the concrete house. He jumped up and ran to a position ten meters from the enemy emplacement. He was wounded in the side during this maneuver, but he refused aid and began to fire into the fortification, allowing his platoon time to deploy for the engagement. He next attempted to throw a grenade into the bunker to destroy it. He was shot in the right arm. Disregarding his safety, he switched the grenade to his left hand and made an accurate throw. The explosion stunned the North Vietnamese Army soldiers bunker. Private Conner continued to place suppressive fire on the position and was wounded a third time. Realizing that the bunker would have to be completely demolished to eliminate its fire, he dashed forward, exposed to a hail of bullets, and tossed a grenade inside the emplacement which killed all its occupants. Unassisted, he then crawled to the rear for medical treatment. Private First Class Conner's extraordinary heroism 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.

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Authority: By direction of the President, under the provision of the Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963, and Department of the Army message 782774, dated 19 September 1966.