

HEADQUARTERS
AMERICAL DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 793

4 October 1967

AWARD OF THE SOLDIERS MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

JONES, WARD L. CAPTAIN, MEDICAL CORPS, United States Army,
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d
Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division APO 96347

Awarded: Soldiers Medal

Date action: 8 September 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy. Captain Jones distinguished himself by heroic action and personal bravery on 8 September 1967, near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. After being informed that four men from the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry had been struck by lightning and were in extremely critical condition, Captain Jones immediately volunteered to go in to administer professional medical attention. The Medevac helicopters would not go in because of the very hazardous weather conditions of heavy thunderstorm, thick fog and zero visibility. Shortly thereafter, Captain Jones learned that the pilot of the command and control helicopter had volunteered his professional services in order to save the lives of the injured troopers. When the pilot had landed his helicopter on the hastily prepared landing zone, Captain Jones immediately jumped out and went to assist in the loading of the wounded men, to insure that they were properly cared for. Immediately after lifting off, the area was once again struck by lightning and Captain Jones was asked to come back again after he had administered the needed medical attention to the injured men enroute to the hospital. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Captain Jones, without hesitation again offered his services and made the journey through the severe weather conditions and was instrumental in saving the lives of four men. Captain Jones' heroic actions in the face of danger were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926.