

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 3865

15 June 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR  
(POSTHUMOUS)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

SKAPINSKY, GEORGE J. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3 United States Army  
Co A, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date of action: 20 April 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Private First Class Skapinsky distinguished himself on 20 April 1966 during a mission to secure a landing zone for a heliborne operation near Phan Thiet, Republic of Vietnam. While manning his position in the defensive perimeter around the projected landing zone, Private First Class Skapinsky detected a Viet Cong squad attempting to penetrate the perimeter. After notifying his patrol leader of the situation, he concentrated a hail of fire onto the surprised insurgents. The insurgents quickly dispersed into the jungle, leaving two dead behind. Private First Class Skapinsky volunteered to move forward with two other men in search of the dead Viet Cong. After reaching the dead Viet Cong, Private First Class Skapinsky again detected movement to his front only moments before the Viet Cong launched a two pronged attack. Due to his alertness, his comrades were prepared to repulse the Viet Cong, and killed two more insurgents. When intense hostile fire was received from a treeline to their front, Private First Class Skapinsky, with complete disregard for his safety, covered the withdrawal of his comrades until he was mortally wounded. Private First Class Skapinsky's extraordinary heroism in close combat against a numerically superior hostile 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.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1916.