

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

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 4991

25 July 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR  
(POSTHUMOUS)

1. TO 320. The following AWARD is announced.

REEDER, MELVIN PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3 United States Army  
Co A, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf, 1st Fde, 101st Abn Div, APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date action: 11 June 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Private First Class Reeder distinguished himself on 11 June 1966 while serving as a member of a company extracting wounded to a landing zone near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. While moving toward the landing zone, Private First Class Reeder, with keen alertness, detected a well concealed Viet Cong ambush consisting of a reinforced Viet Cong squad. Realizing that his company was carrying many litter patients and was unaware of the ambush, Private First Class Reeder, although completely exposed, shouted a warning to his comrades and immediately concentrated a heavy volume of fire on the insurgents. His extremely effective fire forced the Viet Cong to concentrate all their fire power on him. This enabled his fellow soldiers to seek cover. With complete disregard for his safety, Private First Class Reeder engaged and neutralized two hostile emplacements and killed four Viet Cong before he was mortally wounded by a burst of hostile fire. Through his heroic actions, Private First Class Reeder was directly responsible for saving the lives of his comrades and the wounded personnel. His unimpeachable valor in close combat against a numerically superior Viet Cong 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 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



L. T. MARCUS  
Colonel, AGC  
Adjutant General

RICHARD J. SEYD  
Brigadier General, US Army  
Chief of Staff