

HEADQUARTERS  
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
APO San Francisco 96307

23 March 1966

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 1819

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR  
(POSTHUMOUS)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

VACZI, ALEX E. FIRST SERGEANT E8 United States Army  
Co B, 2d Bn, 502d Inf, 1st Ede, 101st Abn Div, APO US Army

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date action: 6 February 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: First Sergeant Vaczi distinguished himself on 6 February 1966 while participating on a search and destroy operation at Canh Tinh, Republic of Vietnam. At approximately 1800 hours, his unit received an intense volume of machine gun fire from well-concealed and heavily-fortified Viet Cong positions near the village of Canh Tinh. Realizing the imperative need to locate and eliminate the hostile emplacements as quickly as possible to minimize casualties to his unit, First Sergeant Vaczi moved about the battlefield and placed his troopers in positions from which they could effectively engage the Viet Cong that he was able to locate. In one instance a well-concealed machine gun fired on the left flank of his unit. To locate this hostile machine gun bunker, he braved almost certain death by dangerously exposing himself, and then delivered extremely accurate fire on the hostile emplacement to force the Viet Cong to abandon the position. Despite the protests of all those around him, First Sergeant Vaczi persisted in exposing himself to the hostile fire while locating and directing effective fire on the Viet Cong positions. He continually encouraged and inspired his men to meet the hostile fire with a determined aggressiveness. While moving from one man to another, First Sergeant Vaczi was mortally wounded. Even though he sacrificed his own life, his leadership inspired the platoon to locate and effectively engage the concealed hostile positions. First Sergeant Vaczi's gallant actions on the field of battle 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 under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.