

DECLASSIFIED

Authority A002 968137  
 By [Signature] NARA Date 5/10/07

HEADQUARTERS  
 TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)  
 APO San Francisco 96374

OPTIONAL FORMS  
 M455P 658

13 September 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following award is recommended posthumously.

PATTERSON, JOSEPH H., PFC, SOUTHERN ARKANSAS REGIMENT 25, United States Army, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star 13

Date of action: 13 August 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

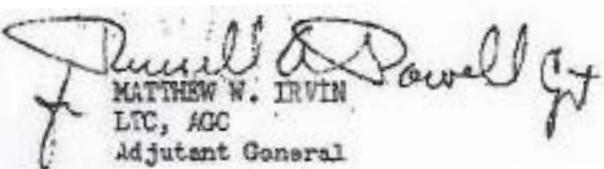
Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 13 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Patterson distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action and personal sacrifice as he was leading his squad down a jungle trail and was ambushed by an enemy element of undetermined size. Sergeant Patterson immediately maneuvered his squad into a position to gain fire superiority. While directing the effective fire into the ranks of the onrushing Viet Cong, he detected several enemy soldiers moving forward to his immediate front, two of them were carrying a rocket launcher. The insurgents quickly set up a defilade position. Realizing that only maneuver could make against the enemy was ineffective, Sergeant Patterson courageously exposed himself to the intense enemy small arms fire in an attempt to hurl a grenade into their stronghold. Seeing his grenade fall short, Sergeant Patterson, with complete disregard for his own safety, leaped from his covered position and charged the enemy through a hail of fire; he tossed a grenade into the enemy positions which killed two of them and caused the others to flee. While making his way back to his squad, he was mortally wounded. Sergeant Patterson's display of unquestionable valor and his extreme dedication to duty while engaged in close combat were in keeping with the finest traditions of the military service and reflected the highest degree of credit upon himself, Task Force Oregon, 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:

OFFICIAL: . . .

ROBERT R. HUGGER  
 Colonel, GS  
 Chief of Staff

  
 MATTHEW W. IRVIN  
 LTC, AGC  
 Adjutant General