

DECLASSIFIED

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HEADQUARTERS
 TASK FORCE OREGON (PROVISIONAL)
 APO San Francisco 96374

GENERAL ORDERS
 NUMBER 550

5 September 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TO 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: Silver Star

Date action: 11 June 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action. Captain Jones distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action and personal bravery while engaged in operations against a hostile force on 11 June 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam while serving as battalion medical platoon leader. That morning, Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, having been engaged with hostile forces for an extended period of time and with ten casualties, pulled back on a hill as an artillery preparation was being planned to soften up the dug-in North Vietnamese soldiers. Shortly after the company perimeter had been established, they were brought under a hostile barrage of approximately twenty rounds from indirect fire weapons which inflicted an additional twenty-two wounded and killed three. Upon hearing of this, Captain Jones volunteered to go to the aid of the wounded. Seeing that no landing zone was available for the helicopter and that small arms fire was taking place in close proximity to the wounded, Captain Jones, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own safety, dropped a nylon rope from the helicopter and without aid of a snap link or gloves climbed down the rope, fully exposed to the enemy fire, for a distance of eighty feet to the ground. Captain Jones worked feverishly over his comrades for a period of two hours administering professional medical attention to the wounded and comforting the dying. Captain Jones' heroic and decisive actions undoubtedly saved the lives of many wounded soldiers. Captain Jones' outstanding display of courage, profound dedication and devotion to duty while exposed to hostile fire are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, 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.