

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION
 APO San Francisco 96374

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *AWO 968137*
 By *[Signature]* NARA Date *5/29/07*

2 December 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR
(FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

PUCKETT, RALPH JR. , LIEUTENANT COLONEL, INFANTRY, United States Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division APO 96347

Awarded: Silver Star (1st Oak Leaf Cluster)

Date action: 26 August 1967 *Should be 25 AUG*

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action against a hostile force on 26 August 1967 in the Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Colonel Puckett, in a command and control helicopter, volunteered to go into an insecure, embattled landing zone to evacuate a critically wounded man where medical helicopters could not land. Despite a severe thunder storm and intense hostile fire being directed at the helicopter, Colonel Puckett, with no regard for his own safety, went into the landing zone. While there, he realized that unless something was done immediately, the company was in great danger of being overrun. After successfully evacuating the wounded man, Colonel Puckett returned to the battle area in his helicopter with a cargo of much-needed ammunition. Later in the afternoon when more casualties were sustained and medical helicopters could not get into the area, Colonel Puckett again went into the landing zone with his command and control helicopter and evacuated the dead and wounded. Colonel Puckett's disregard for his own safety while exposed to hostile fire, his unselfish concern for his men, and his valorous acts inspired his men to such a degree that they successfully repelled an enemy of superior number. Lieutenant Colonel Puckett's unquestionable valor was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, the Americal Division, 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:

[Signature]
 DONALD Y. B. CHUNG
 LTC, AGC
 Adjutant General

ROBERT H. MUSSER
 Colonel, GS
 Chief of Staff