

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division
APO San Francisco 96383

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 8666

30 October 1968

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR MEDAL (FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

1. TC 320. The following AWARDS are announced.

BRANDER, FREDERICK C FIRST SERGEANT (E-8)
~~Company A 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383~~

Awarded: The Silver Star Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster)

Effective Month: October 1968

Date action: 10 April 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 April 1968.

First Sergeant Brander distinguished himself while engaged in military operations against an armed, hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 10 April 1968, while serving with Company A, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry. Company A was on a series of search and clear operations just south of the Demilitarized Zone and succeeded in trapping a North Vietnamese unit in the village of Phuc Dien, Republic of Vietnam. In order to prevent the enemy from escaping, the company set up a cordon around the village and stood by as artillery fire and air strikes raked the area. The task of ferreting out the entrenched enemy fell to the first platoon as it began a sweep of the enemy infested village. After advancing a distance of not more than one hundred meters, the lead squad of the platoon was hit by a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire from a number of enemy positions. With the forward movement stalled, First Sergeant Brander raced forward from his position with the company command group. After seeing that the enemy fire was coming from a small dike directly in front of the platoon, he moved around to the left flank so that he could come up on the side of the enemy. Completely disregarding his own safety and defying the enemy fire that was being aimed solely at him, First Sergeant Brander crawled behind the same dike with the three snipers. Completely surprising the three enemy soldiers, First Sergeant Brander immediately opened fire killing them. With the platoon free to advance, First Sergeant Brander jumped up and moved with the platoon as it continued toward its objective. First Sergeant Brander's exceptional valor is 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 of the United States under the provisions of the Act of Congress established 9 July 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

W. P. TALLON, JR
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

For M. K. LABAR MAJ AGC
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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