

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

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 4311

2 August 1968

SECTION I

THE SILVER STAR MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARDS are announced.

PITTS, THOMAS G RA (SSAN: ) SERGEANT (E-5) Company C  
1st Battalion 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star Medal

Date action: 12 April 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 12 April 1968. Sergeant Pitts distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, during an ambush patrol near the village of Ap Duc Trong, Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. The ambush patrol, consisting of two squads, had just set up its ambush site when both the company night defensive position and the ambush patrol came under an intense barrage of hostile automatic weapons, rocket propelled grenade, and hand grenade fire. The initial bursts of fire delivered upon the ambush site critically wounded the platoon leader and seriously wounded Sergeant Pitts. Refusing medical treatment for himself, Sergeant Pitts immediately assumed command of the ambush element and skillfully organized the defense of the completely encircled position. With utter disregard to his personal safety and the pain he suffered, he courageously exposed himself to the devastating enemy fire as he moved from man to man pointing out targets and and lending encouragement to his beleaguered troopers. Withdrawal was impossible without abandoning the many wounded and the dead. When the hostile force had terminated its attack on the patrol all but three men had been wounded. At such time that a relief element could be dispatched it was Sergeant Pitts who directed the element to the patrol's position. Not until the relief element leader had reached his location did Sergeant Pitts relinquish his command and allow himself to receive treatment. Sergeant Pitt's extraordinarily heroic actions and indomitable courage 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 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

  
M. K. LABAR  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

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