

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 914

28 January 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

LONG, RONALD E. SERGEANT Headquarters and Headquarters
Company 1st Battalion (Airborne) 502d Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star
Effective month: December 1968
Date action: 6 March 1968
Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action while engaged in military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 6 March 1968, Sergeant Long distinguished himself while serving as communications Sergeant on a combat operation in Thua Thien Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of 6 March 1968, Company D made a combat assault near the village of Ap Nho Lam in search of a suspected North Vietnamese Army hospital. Upon entering the village, the company was engaged from three different directions by an enemy battalion with machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, and mortars. The enemy fired from fortified and well-camouflaged bunkers. As casualties mounted, Sergeant Long aided in securing a landing zone for medical evacuation, then returned to the battle. The First Platoon was engaged by hostile fire in a cemetery on the left flank and received heavy casualties from automatic weapons fire raking its positions. Evacuation of the dead and wounded necessitated crossing open rice paddies directly in the enemy's field of fire. Fully conscious of this, Sergeant Long proceeded across the rice paddies, crawling the greater part of the one hundred and fifty meters to the cemetery. With disregard for his own safety, he dragged and carried the dead and wounded through heavy enemy fire to safety. By late afternoon, Sergeant Long had personally carried six men from the field and continued to aid others despite low ammunition. Sergeant Long's personal bravery and devotion to duty 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, approved 7 July 1918.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

L. L. HOWEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

fa-MLMaul MATHGE

DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AOC
Adjutant General

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