

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

13 July 1969

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 8796

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

IC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

AMELZA, MARIO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Company A 1st Battalion (Airborne) 501st
Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (Posthumous)

Effective month: N/A

Date action: 25 May 1969

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 25 May 1969. Private Lamelza distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry, during a combat mission in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. On the cited date, the lead platoon of Company A came under an intense volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire from well-fortified enemy bunker complexes. Private Lamelza maneuvered across the rice paddy to within fifteen meters of an enemy machine gun position. After eliminating this bunker with a hand grenade, he moved through the brush to the next enemy position. Then, with complete disregard for his own safety, he stood up and killed the occupants of the second bunker with rifle fire. While attempting to maneuver on the third enemy position, he suffered fatal gunshot wounds. Private Lamelza'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 25 July 1963.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

M. H. MURLEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff


DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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