

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

8 August 1969

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 10304

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

ARTIS, VERNON D PRIVATE FIRST CLASS Company A 1st Battalion (Airborne) 502d
Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (Posthumous)

Effective month: N/A

Date action: 8 July 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action while engaged military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 8 July 1969. Private Artis distinguished himself while serving as an assistant machine gunner with the Third Platoon of Company A, 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry. The Third Platoon was moving down a jungle trail when it was engaged by heavy enemy fire. Using mortars, rocket propelled grenades, and automatic weapons, the North Vietnamese were able to cut off and pin down the entire platoon. Taking the machine gun from the wounded machine gunner, Private Artis directed intense fire toward the enemy positions. Surviving the initial onslaught, Private Artis silenced one enemy position after another. Realizing the threat of the machine gun, the North Vietnamese directed their mortars and all organic fire against him. Undaunted by the extreme odds, he continued to fire until struck by hostile fire and mortally wounded. Private Artis' 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:



DALE H. HAYES
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

HUGH A. MACDONALD
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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