

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

13 August 1969

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 10525

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR (POSTHUMOUS)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

KELLY, JOHN E . CAPTAIN INFANTRY Company D 2d Battalion (Airborne) 501st  
Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star (Posthumous)

Effective month: N/A

Date action: 25 July 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 25 July 1969. Captain Kelly distinguished himself while serving as the Commanding Officer of Company D, 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry. Company D was engaged in a reconnaissance in force operation in the mountainous jungle west of Rue, Republic of Vietnam. Company D had been making sporadic contact with small enemy elements of three to four men for a period of seven days. Captain Kelly aggressively led his men in pursuit of these North Vietnamese Army reconnaissance elements since intelligence reports indicated the presence of a large enemy unit in the area. On the cited date, Captain Kelly was maneuvering with one of his rifle platoons at the base of a hill while the remainder of his company secured the higher portion of the hill. At approximately 1100 hours, the rifle platoon received small arms fire from several well-concealed insurgents and one of his men was wounded. After he called for a medical evacuation helicopter and aerial rocket artillery support, the enemy soldiers again opened up with a burst of machine gun fire, and Captain Kelly was mortally wounded. His courageous actions were an inspiration to his men and his outstanding leadership greatly aided in the overall success of the mission. Captain Kelly'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:



DALE H. HAYES  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

HUGH A. MACDONALD  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

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