

GENERAL ORDERS  
NUMBER 15207

30 December 1969

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

ZAPERT, VALERINE J. FIRST LIEUTENANT INFANTRY Company E 1st  
Battalion (Airmobile) 501st Infantry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Silver Star

Effective month: FA

Date action: 21 May 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action in the Republic of Vietnam on 21 May 1969.

Lieutenant Zapert distinguished himself while serving as platoon leader, reconnaissance platoon, Company E, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, during a reconnaissance in force operation near Tam Ky, in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Lieutenant Zapert volunteered to take his platoon and relieve Company D, which had sustained numerous casualties while engaging a well-entrenched enemy force. While attempting to reach the company's location, Lieutenant Zapert's platoon suddenly came under intense enemy machine gun fire. Reacting immediately, he charged through the heavy fire and silenced the enemy position, killing the three-man crew and capturing the weapon. Utilizing several of his men in this position, he directed them to place suppressive fire upon the enemy as he and the remainder of his men went forward. While advancing on Company D's location, Lieutenant Zapert was wounded by an enemy hand grenade, which temporarily impaired his vision and hearing. Ignoring his wounds, he subjected himself continually to the intense fire as he directed the evacuation of the dead and wounded. As he directed medical evacuation operations, he was again wounded in the leg by small arms fire. Quickly bandaging his wound, he evacuated the casualties to a secure area beyond the reach of enemy fire. Only when all of the men had been treated and evacuated did he agree to leave the field of battle. His personal bravery and dynamic leadership resulted in the killing of several enemy, the capturing of a large caliber enemy crew served weapon, and the saving of many lives. Lieutenant Zapert'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:

HUGH A. MACDONALD  
Colonel, GS  
Chief of Staff

*H. R. Thomas*  
H. R. THOMAS  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

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