

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 554

14 September 1965

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR
(POSTHUMOUSLY)

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

BURKHEART, GEORGE W FIRST LIEUTENANT INF USA

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date action: 3 September 1965

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

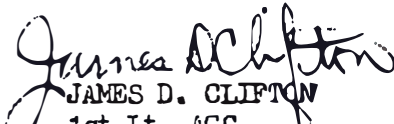
Reason: For gallantry in action: First Lieutenant Burkheart distinguished himself by exceptionally heroic action on 3 September 1965 while serving as a reconnaissance platoon leader in the Republic of Vietnam. Engaged in a search and destroy operation near the village of Binh Kho Lieutenant Burkheart and his entire platoon became pinned down by intense enemy small arms fire while crossing an open rice paddy. Realizing that continued hostile fire would inflict heavy casualties upon his men, Lieutenant Burkheart continually exposed himself while moving from position to position shouting words of encouragement and directing fire on the enemy positions to his immediate front. On a number of occasions he exposed himself to direct hostile fire in order to observe the enemy and direct fire. Twice Lieutenant Burkheart exposed himself to direct the movement and adjustment of machine guns, and the second time he was mortally wounded. By his brave action, personal example, and obvious concern for his men, he so inspired them that they were able to overcome the numerically superior Viet Cong force. Led by his example, the platoon moved forward and occupied their objective. Lieutenant Burkheart's conspicuous gallantry in action was 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 under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918, and USARPAC Message 16300, dated 17 August 1965.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

JOHN D. McLAUGHLIN
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff


JAMES D. CLIFTON
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adj General

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