

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96307

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 639

1 February 1966

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR
(POSTHUMOUSLY)

1. TC J20. The following award is announced.

VALASQUEZ, PETE A. STAFF SERGEANT E6 United States Army
Co E, 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Inf, APO US Forces 96347

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date action: 12 December 1965

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For gallantry in action: Staff Sergeant Valasquez distinguished himself on 12 December 1965 while serving as a squad leader in an airborne infantry battalion on a search and destroy operation in Ben Cat, Republic of Vietnam. Sergeant Valasquez was assigned to the lead platoon of the battalion. At approximately 0915 hours while advancing through dense jungle terrain, one squad in the platoon came under fire from an estimated Viet Cong squad. Hearing the initial burst of fire, Sergeant Valasquez quickly moved his squad to the front to assist the squad under fire. Upon reaching the area, the insurgent squad had slipped back into the jungle leaving several trails of blood. Without hesitation, Sergeant Valasquez led four of his men along the trail of blood in relentless pursuit of the insurgents. As they stopped off the small trail, six Viet Cong opened fire from concealed positions with automatic weapons and hand grenades. Sergeant Valasquez was wounded four times, but he quickly turned to his men and directed their fire on the insurgents. As the fire fight progressed, a grenade wounded him for the fifth time and he fell to the ground unconscious and shortly afterwards died of his wounds. Throughout the brief but ferocious battle, Sergeant Valasquez placed the welfare of his men and the accomplishment of the mission above his personal safety. His leadership, devotion to duty, and gallantry were an inspiration to his men. Sergeant Valasquez's gallant actions 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 under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 9 July 1918.