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2 MAR 1971

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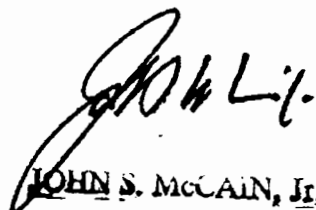
FIFTH ENDORSEMENT on CO 1ST BDE 101ST ABN DIV (AMBL) DA Form 638 of  
2 SEP 1970

From: Commander in Chief Pacific  
To: Secretary of the Army  
Via: Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Subj: Medal of Honor; recommendation for posthumous award of, case of  
Private First Class Frank R. FRATELLENICO, USA,

1. Readdressed and forwarded recommending approval of the posthumous  
award of the Medal of Honor to Private First Class FRATELLENICO.

Copy to:  
COMUSMACV (MACAG-PD) ←  
CGUSARV (AVHAG-PD)  
CG XXIV CORPS (AVII-CG)  
CG 101ST ABN DIV (AMBL) (AVDG-CG)  
CO 1ST BDE 101ST ABN DIV (AMBL)

  
JOHN S. MCCAIN, JR.

87

**GPAG-PA FRATELLENICO, Frank R. 1st Ind**  
**(17 Feb 71)**

**SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumous)**

**HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96350 10 MAR 1971**

**TO: The Adjutant General, ATTN: AGPB-AB, Department of the Army,**  
**Washington, D. C. 20310**

**Recommend approval of award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumous).**

**FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:**

**1 Incl**  
**sc**

**WILLIAM F. YARBOROUGH**  
**Lieutenant General, USA**  
**Deputy Commander in Chief**

**CF:**  
**COMUSMACV, ATTN: MACAG-PD, APO 96222**

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MACAG-PD

17 FEB 1971

**SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumous)**

**Commander In Chief  
United States Army, Pacific  
APO 96558**

**Forwarded in accordance with Section II, para 24b(3), AR 672-5-1.**

**FOR THE COMMANDER:**

**1 Incl  
Recm for Awd  
(FRATELLENICO, Frank R.)**

**G. F. TRAINER  
Major, USA  
Asst AG**

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By 88 NARA Date 3-12-01

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MACAG-PD FRATELLENICO, Frank R. 4th Ind  
(6 Oct 70)

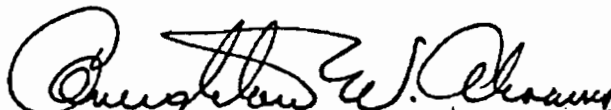
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND,  
VIETNAM, APO 96222 17 FEB 1971

TO: Commander In Chief, Pacific, FPO 96610

1. Recommend approval of the Medal of Honor (Posthumous).
2. Request this headquarters (ATTN: MACAG-PD) be advised when final action has been taken.

9 Incl  
nc

  
CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS  
General, United States Army  
Commanding

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By 82 NARA Date 3-11-01

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## RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD

HEROISM     MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE

For TO: [REDACTED] The Adjutant General's Office.

FROM: (Include ZIP Code)  
**Commanding Officer**  
**1st Bde, 101st Abn Div (Ambl)**  
**APO San Francisco 96383**

### PART I - PERSONAL DATA

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME <b>Fratellenico, Frank R.</b>	2. SSAN	3. GRADE <b>PFC E-3</b>	4. BRANCH <b>US Army</b>
5. ORGANIZATION <b>Co B 2d Bn (Ambl) 502d Inf, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div (Ambl) APO SF 96383</b>			
6. RECOMMENDED AWARD <b>MEDAL OF HONOR</b>		7. POSTHUMOUS AWARD: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
8. DESIRED DATE OF PRESENTATION <b>N/A</b>		8. DATE AND PLACE OF DEATH <b>19 August 1970</b> <b>In the Province of Quang Tri, RVN</b>	
9. WAS INTERIM AWARD MADE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		9. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NOK <b>Joe Fratellenico (Father)</b>	

### PART II - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR HEROISM

10. INFORMATION ABOUT EYEWITNESS

a. LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MI	b. SSAN	c. GRADE	d. UNIT
<b>McCann, Robert C.</b>		<b>1LT, O2</b>	<b>Co B 2d Bn (Ambl) 502d Inf</b>
<b>Tomko, John (RMM) Jr.</b>		<b>1LT, O2</b>	<b>Co B 2d Bn (Ambl) 502d Inf</b>
<b>Gainsy, Wallace (RMM)</b>		<b>PSG, E7</b>	<b>Co B 2d Bn (Ambl) 502d Inf</b>
<b>Whitlock, Richard (RMM)</b>		<b>SGT, E5</b>	<b>Co B 2d Bn (Ambl) 502d Inf</b>
<b>Hatch, Duane R.</b>		<b>SP4, E4</b>	<b>Co B 2d Bn (Ambl) 502d Inf</b>

11. IF STATEMENT OF WITNESS IS NOT ATTACHED, GIVE REASON

### PART III - RECOMMENDATION FOR AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT OR SERVICE

12. INCLUSIVE DATE FOR WHICH RECOMMENDED	13. INCLUSIVE DATES OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNIT SHOWN IN ITEM 5, STATE REASON FOR END DATE (Retire, REFRAD, etc.)
14. OTHER AWARDS TO INDIVIDUAL DURING TIME FRAME SHOWN IN ITEM 12 (Does not include interim award)	

11. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH ACT WAS PERFORMED

a. LOCATION <b>2 Kilometers west of Fire Support Base Barnett, in the Province of Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam</b>	b. TIME <b>1100 hrs</b>	c. DATE <b>19 August 1970</b>
d. UNIT MORALE, CASUALTIES, AND MISSION DURING TIME AND DATE(S) OF ACT <b>Morale: High</b> <b>Friendly Casualties: 1 KIA, 8 WIA</b> <b>Mission: Search and Sweep Operation</b>		

### PART IV - OTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND AUTHENTICATION

15. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING APPENDICES: See Appendix VII, AR 672-5-1 for instructions on completing and attaching necessary narrative data, such as description of the act, sketches, maps and statements of witnesses.	16. RELATED POSITION OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION TO PERSON BEING RECOMMENDED <b>Brigade Commander, 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div</b>
18. IF APPROVED, FORWARD AWARD TO: <b>The Adjutant General, ATTN: AGPB-AC</b> <b>Department of the Army</b> <b>Washington, D. C. 20314</b>	17. TYPED NAME, GRADE, BRANCH AND TITLE OF PERSON INITIATING RECOMMENDATION <b>Paul Gorman, Col, Inf, Commanding</b>
	19. SIGNATURE 
	20. DATE <b>2 Sep 70</b>

DA FORM 638 1 JUN 69

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 By **82** NARA Date **3-12-01**

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

On 19 August 1970, at approximately 0800 hours, several men of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502d Infantry observed several NVA soldiers moving on a hilltop approximately three hundred and fifty meters to the north at coordinates YD171319. The 1st Platoon of Company B immediately began moving toward the enemy, supported by aerial rocket artillery and the 2d and 3d Platoons of Company B. As the 1st Platoon approached the enemy positions, they deployed on line and began to assault the closest bunkers. They immediately came under heavy small arms and grenade fire that pinned them down. After several unsuccessful attempts to take one of these bunkers, Private First Class Frank R. Fratellenico succeeded in crawling close enough to the bunker and destroy it with fragmentation grenades, killing all five occupants. The attack resumed, but soon became stopped by another bunker. Once more Private First Class Fratellenico moved forward and tried to silence the enemy position with another grenade. As he prepared to throw the grenade, he was hit several times in the chest by automatic weapons fire. The impact of the rounds caused him to drop the grenade that he was preparing to throw. Realizing that the grenade would seriously wound several of his fellow squad members, Private First Class Fratellenico pulled the grenade under him and absorbed the blast with his body. Inspired by his courage and dedication, the remaining men in his squad assaulted and overran the enemy bunker.

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### C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

At 1100 hours on 19 August 1970 at grid coordinates YD 171319, the First Platoon of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile) 502d Infantry was engaged by an NVA Company size element who was well entrenched in a well fortified position. The attack was initiated when the enemy began to fire automatic weapons and throw hand grenades. The platoon was immediately pinned down and unable to maneuver. At this time Private First Class Frank R. Fratelenico, who was a rifleman in the platoon, moved forward to assault the two bunkers to the front with hand grenades. He successfully assaulted the first bunker killing 5 NVA soldiers. As he moved toward the second bunker he was wounded in the chest with an RPD machine gun. He fell to the ground at this time simultaneously dropping a hand grenade he was holding. Laying there on the ground he saw the live grenade and realized that the men near his immediate location may be seriously wounded or killed, with his right hand pulled the grenade under his body and absorbed the explosion. His heroic actions inspired his comrades to continue the assault and route the enemy, which resulted in 25 NVA soldiers killed and several blood trails found.

*Robert C. McCann*  
ROBERT C. McCANN

Company Commander

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## STATEMENT

At 1100 hours on 19 August 1970, while on a search and sweep operation, the First Platoon of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile) 502d Infantry was engaged by enemy automatic weapons fire and hand grenade fire at grid coordinates YD171319. During the initial contact the platoon was pinned down by an NVA Company size element entrenched in heavily fortified positions. At this time Private First Class Frank R. Fratellenico, who was a rifleman in the platoon, moved forward to assault the two bunkers directly to their front with hand grenades. He successfully assaulted the first bunker and killed 5 NVA soldiers. As he was moving toward the second bunker he was seriously wounded in the chest from automatic weapons fire. He fell on the ground, simultaneously dropping a live hand grenade, that he was preparing to throw into the bunker, realizing that the grenade he had dropped would injure or kill some of his fellow squad members, with his right hand he pulled the grenade into his chest, taking the entire blast with his chest. Realizing that Private Fratellenico had given his life for them, his fellow platoon members increased the assault, killing 25 NVA soldiers and finding many blood trails leading from the area.

*Duane R. Hatch*  
DUANE R. HATCH

Grenadier

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## STATEMENT

At 1100 hours on 19 August 1970 at grid coordinates YD171319, the First Platoon of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile) 502d Infantry was engaged by an NVA Company size element who was entrenched in a well fortified position. The attack was initiated when the enemy began to fire automatic weapons and throw hand grenades. The platoon was immediately pinned down and unable to maneuver. At this time Private First Class Frank R. Fratellenico who was a rifleman in the platoon, moved forward to assault the two bunkers to the front with hand grenades. He successfully assaulted the first bunker killing 5 NVA soldiers. As he moved toward the second bunker he was wounded in the chest from an RPD machine gun. He fell to the ground at this time simultaneously dropping a hand grenade he was holding. Laying there on the ground he saw the live grenade and realized that the men near his immediate location may be seriously wounded or killed. He pulled the grenade with his right hand under his body and absorbed the explosion. His heroic actions inspired his comrades to continue the assault and rout the enemy, which resulted in 25 NVA soldiers killed and several blood trails found.

*Richard W. Whitefork*  
RICHARD WHITEFORK

Fire Team Leader

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## C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

At 1100 hours on 19 August 1970 at grid coordinates YD 171319, the First Platoon of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile) 502d Infantry was engaged by an NVA Company size element who was entrenched in a well fortified position. The attack was initiated when the enemy began to fire automatic weapons and throw hand grenades. The platoon was immediately pinned down and unable to maneuver. At this time Private First Class Frank R. Fratelenico, who was a rifleman in the platoon, moved forward to assault the two bunkers to the front with hand grenades. He successfully assaulted the first bunker killing 5 NVA soldiers. As he moved toward the second bunker he was wounded in the chest from an RFD machine gun. He fell to the ground at this time simultaneously dropping a hand grenade he was holding. Laying there on the ground he saw the live grenade and realized that the man near his immediate location may be seriously wounded or killed, with his right hand he pulled the grenade under his body and absorbed the explosion. His heroic actions inspired his comrades to continue the assault and route the enemy, which resulted in 25 NVA soldiers killed and several blood trails found.

*John Tomko*  
JOHN TOMKO

Platoon Leader

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## STATEMENT

At 1100 hours on 19 August 1970 at grid coordinates YD 171319, the First Platoon of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile) 502d Infantry was engaged by an NVA Company size element who was entrenched in a well fortified position. The attack was initiated when the enemy began to fire automatic weapons and throw hand grenades. The platoon was immediately pinned down and unable to maneuver. At this time Private First Class Frank R. Fratalenico, who was a rifleman in the platoon, moved forward to assault the two bunkers to the front with hand grenades. He successfully assaulted the first bunker killing 5 NVA soldiers. As he moved toward the second bunker he was wounded in the chest from an RPD machine gun. He fell to the ground at this time simultaneously dropping a hand grenade he was holding. Lying there on the ground he saw the live grenade and realized that the men near his immediate location may be seriously wounded or killed, with his right hand he pulled the grenade under his body and absorbed the explosion. His heroic actions inspired his comrades to continue the assault and route the enemy, which resulted in 25 NVA soldiers killed and several blood trails found.

*Wallace Gainey*  
WALLACE GAINNEY

Platoon Sergeant

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## EXPLANATION OF MAP

The LZ depicted on the map was used by friendly forces four days earlier on 15 August 1970.

The bomb craters shown were the result of previous air strikes.

The bunkers and fighting positions were constructed by NVA forces and were partially destroyed by friendly air strikes and artillery. These positions were reoccupied early on 19 August 1970 by an estimated NVA company who immediately began setting up a mortar position. This was observed by Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, who immediately began moving toward the enemy.

As soon as contact was made with the enemy, Private Fratellenico immediately began engaging the enemy located in bunker number one. He succeeded in destroying this bunker and killing the five NVA soldiers who were in the bunker. Private Fratellenico then began moving toward bunker number two. While attempting to throw a grenade into this bunker, he was seriously wounded by automatic weapons fire and dropped the live grenade that he was preparing to throw. Realizing that the grenade would seriously wound several of his comrades, Private Fratellenico covered the grenade with his body and absorbed the blast.

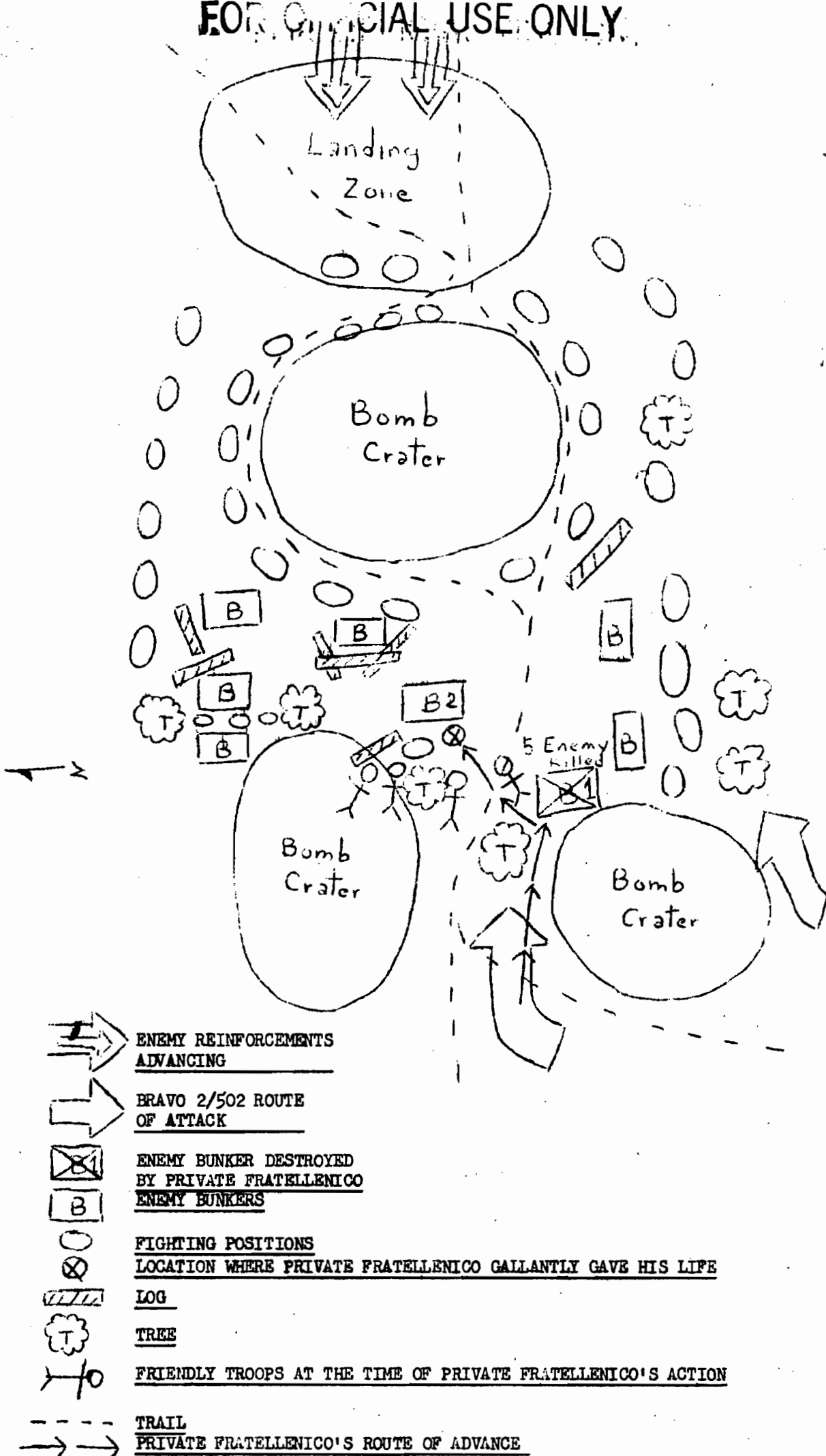
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## MOTIVATION STATEMENT

At 1100 hours on 19 August 1970 at grid coordinates YD 171319, the First Platoon of Company B, 2d Battalion (Airborne) 502d Infantry was engaged by an NVA Company size element who was entrenched in a well fortified position. The attack was initiated when the enemy began to fire automatic weapons and throw hand grenades. The platoon was immediately pinned down and unable to maneuver. At this time Private First Class Frank H. Fratellonico, who was a rifleman in the platoon, moved toward the first two bunkers with hand grenades. He successfully assaulted the first bunker killing 5 NVA soldiers. As he moved toward the second bunker he was wounded in the chest from an RPG machine gun. He fell to the ground at this time simultaneously dropping a hand grenade he was holding. Lying there on the ground he saw the live grenade and realized that the men near his immediate location may be seriously wounded or killed, with his right hand he pulled the grenade under his body and absorbed the explosion. In my opinion PFC Fratellonico was of sound mind and his alert and unselfish actions were motivated only by his desire to save and protect his comrades.

*John Tomko Jr.*

JOHN TOMKO

Platoon Leader

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## Narrative Description of Gallant Conduct

At about 0900hrs. on 19 August 1970, the first platoon of Company B, 2d Bn (Abl) 502nd Inf. began assaulting enemy bunkers located approximately two kilometers west of Fire Support Base Barnett at grid coordinates YD171319. The attack came to a standstill when elements of the attacking platoon were pinned down by intense enemy RPG, grenade, and small arms fire. Private Fratellenico crawled through the hail of enemy fire and destroyed the first bunker, killing all five occupants. He then advanced on a second enemy bunker and was hit in the chest by several rounds of automatic weapons fire. The impact of the bullets caused Private Fratellenico to drop the grenade that he was preparing to throw. Realizing that several of his fellow squad members would be seriously injured by the grenade, Private Fratellenico rolled onto the grenade and absorbed the blast with his body. His courage and dedication to duty inspired his fellow soldiers of the first platoon to overrun the remaining enemy bunkers and rout a numerically superior enemy force. The facts contained in the proposed citation and this narrative account have been substantiated by the statements of eyewitnesses.

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## PROPOSED CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in the Republic of Vietnam: Private First Class Frank R. Fratellenico distinguished himself while serving as a rifleman in the lead squad of his platoon during an assault against a North Vietnamese Army company near Quang Tri, Republic of Vietnam, on 19 August 1970. Private Fratellenico's squad was pinned down by a heavy volume of enemy fire from two well fortified bunker positions. Disregarding the intense enemy fire, Private Fratellenico maneuvered forward and destroyed the first bunker with hand grenades, killing five enemy soldiers. As he moved toward the second bunker, he was seriously wounded by automatic weapons fire, causing him to fall to the ground and simultaneously to drop a live grenade. Without regard for his own life, Private Fratellenico reached for the dropped grenade and pulled it under him, thereby absorbing the explosion with his body. His heroic actions prevented serious injury to four of his comrades who were in the immediate vicinity. Private Fratellenico's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

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## Summary of Recommendation for Award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumous)

Name: Frank R. Fratellenico  
Status: Rifleman, Private First Class, United States Army  
Organisation: Company B, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)  
Next of Kin: Joe Fratellenico (Father)

Person who assisted: N/A

### Conditions under which act performed

Location: Two kilometers west of Fire Support Base Barnett, Quang Tri Province, RVN  
Date: 19 August 1970  
Terrain: Hilltop and connecting ridges, largely defoliated by artillery and air strikes. Visibility good in all directions.  
Weather: Good, temperature averaging in the 90's, little or no wind.  
Enemy Condition: Morale high. Firmly entrenched in bunkers and foxholes. Armed with machineguns, RPG's, 82mm mortars, Chi Com grenades, and small arms. (25KIA)  
Defenders Condition: Morale High. Assaulting enemy hold bunkers, foxholes, and mortar positions. (1KIA, 8WIA)

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AVDC-CC Fratellenico, Frank R. 1st Ind  
(2 Sep 70)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award

DA, HQ, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), APO 96383 13 September 1970

THRU: Commanding General, XXIV Corps, APO 96349

TO: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam,  
ATTN: AVHAG-PD, APO 96375

1. The recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor to Private First Class Frank R. Fratellenico has been carefully reviewed by the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) Awards and Decorations Board. Information received in the recommendation has been verified and is accurate.

2. My decision regarding the recommendation of the recommendation, and I strongly recommend approval.

3. This recommendation is in conformance with AR 600-31.

9 Incl  
nc

*J. Hennessey*  
HENNESSEY  
Commanding General, USA

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AFM-00 ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, Frank E. 2d Ed  
(9 Oct 70)

SUBJECT: Recommendations for Acquisition

DA, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, INF CORPS, APO 96300

30 DEC 1970

TO: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AFM-00, APO 96300

Strongly recommend approval.

1 Incl  
2c

JAMES E. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, JR.  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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AVHAG-PD FRATELLENICO, Frank R. 3d Ind  
(6 Oct 70)

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Decoration

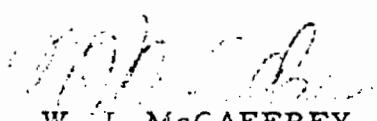
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO 96375

TO: Commander, United States Military Assistance Command,  
Vietnam, ATTN: MACAG-PD, APO 96222

1. Recommend approval.

2. Private First Class Fratellenico distinguished himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity, at the cost of his life, above and beyond the call of duty.

9 Inci  
nc

  
W. J. McCAFFREY  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Deputy Commanding General

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# DISPOSITION FORM

For use of this form, see AR 340-15, the proponent agency is The Adjutant General's Office.

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL	SUBJECT
MACAG-PD	Recommendation for Award
THRU ACofS, J. <i>[Signature]</i> PO CofS	FROM AG
	DATE 18 FEB 1971 CMT 1 MAJ Trainer/rlj/2274

1. **PURPOSE.** To obtain signature of COMUSMACV on the 4th Indorsement at Tab A to the recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumous) to Private First Class Fratellenico at Tab B.

2. **DISCUSSION.**

- a. At Tab B is a recommendation for award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumous) to Private First Class Frank R. Fratellenico, , United States Army.
- b. The recommendation was reviewed by a board of three general officers. These officers recommended award of the Medal of Honor (Posthumous) by a unanimous vote.
- c. Recommendations of intervening headquarters are as follows:

CG, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)	MH (Tab C)
CG, XXIV Corps Vietnam	MH (Tab D)
DCG, USARV	MH (Tab E)

3. **RECOMMENDATION.** Signature of COMUSMACV on indorsement at Tab A and return of correspondence to this office for dispatch.

*[Signature]*  
W. A. RUTLEDGE  
Colonel, USA  
Adjutant General

5 Incl  
as

	Approved/Signed	
COMUS	X	X
DEPCOMUS	NOTED	
COFS	NOTED	
DATE	17 18 40 H Feb 71	

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DA FORM 1 FEB 62 2496

REPLACES DD FORM 96, EXISTING SUPPLIES OF WHICH WILL BE ISSUED AND USED UNTIL 1 FEB 63 UNLESS SOONER EXHAUSTED.

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Authority MWD 923570  
By *[Signature]* NARA Date 5-12-01