

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 30 September 1968

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

Private First Class *Louis E. Willett*, [REDACTED] United States Army, who distinguished himself on 15 February 1967 while serving as a rifleman in Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division during combat operations in Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam. His squad was conducting a security sweep when it made contact with a large enemy force. The squad was immediately engaged with a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire and pinned to the ground. Despite the deadly fusillade, Private *Willett* rose to his feet firing rapid bursts from his own weapon and moved to a position from which he placed highly effective fire on the enemy. His action allowed the remainder of his squad to begin to withdraw from the superior enemy force toward the company perimeter. Private *Willett* covered the squad's withdrawal, but his position drew heavy enemy machinegun fire and he received multiple wounds enabling the enemy again to pin down the remainder of the squad. Private *Willett* struggled to an upright position, and, disregarding his painful wounds, he again engaged the enemy with his rifle to allow his squad to continue its movement and to evacuate several of his comrades who were by now wounded. Moving from position to position, he engaged the enemy at close range until he was mortally wounded. By his unselfish acts of bravery, Private *Willett* insured the withdrawal of his comrades to the company position, saving their lives at the cost of his own. Private *Willett's* valorous actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflected great credit upon himself and the armed forces of his country.

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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
*Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.*

W. C. WESTMORELAND,
*General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.*

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