

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 62

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, D.C., 22 October 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 by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:



First Sergeant *David H. McNerney*, [REDACTED], United States Army, who on 22 March 1967, did distinguish himself when his unit, Company A, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, was attacked by a North Vietnamese battalion near Polei Doc, Republic of Vietnam. Running through the hail of enemy fire to the area of heaviest contact, he was assisting in the development of a defensive perimeter when he encountered several enemy at close range. He killed the enemy, but was painfully injured when blown from his feet by a grenade. In spite of this injury, he assaulted and destroyed an enemy machine gun position that had pinned down five of his comrades beyond the defensive line. Upon learning his commander and artillery forward observer had been killed, he assumed command of the company. He adjusted artillery fire to within twenty meters of the position in a daring measure to repulse enemy assaults. When the smoke grenades used to mark the position were gone, he moved into a nearby clearing to designate the location to friendly aircraft. In spite of enemy fire, he remained exposed until he was certain the position was spotted and then climbed into a tree and tied the identification panel to its highest branches. Then he moved among his men readjusting their position, encouraging the defenders, and checking the wounded. As the hostile assaults slackened, he began clearing a helicopter landing site to evacuate the wounded. When explosives were needed to remove large trees, he crawled outside the relative safety of his perimeter to collect demolition material from abandoned rucksacks. Moving through a fusillade of fire, he returned with the explosives that were vital to the clearing of the landing zone. Disregarding the pain of his injury and refusing medical evacuation, First Sergeant *McNerney* remained with his unit until the next day when the new commander arrived. First Sergeant *McNerney's* outstanding heroism and leadership were inspirational to his comrades. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army. (This award supersedes award of the Silver Star to First Sergeant *McNerney* for gallantry in action on 22 March 1967 as announced in General Orders Number 1818, Headquarters, 4th Infantry Division, dated 9 Jul 1967.)



**GO 62**

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.*

Distribution:

To be distributed in accordance with DA Form 12-4 requirements.