

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 77

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 10 December 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:



Chaplain (Captain) *Angelo J. Liteky*, United States Army, who distinguished himself by exceptional heroism on 6 December 1967, while serving with Company A, 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade. He was participating in a search-and-destroy operation near Phuoc-Lac, Bien Hoa Province, in the Republic of Vietnam, when Company A came under intense fire from a battalion-size enemy force. Momentarily stunned from the immediate encounter that ensued, the men hugged the ground for cover. Observing two wounded men, Chaplain *Liteky* moved to within fifteen meters of an enemy machinegun position to reach them, placing himself between the enemy and the wounded men. When there was a brief respite in the fighting, he managed to drag them to the relative safety of the landing zone. Inspired by his courageous actions, the company rallied and began placing a heavy volume of fire upon the enemy's positions. In a magnificent display of courage and leadership, Chaplain *Liteky* began moving upright through the enemy fire, administering last rites to the dying and evacuating the wounded. Noticing another trapped and seriously wounded man, Chaplain *Liteky* crawled to his aid. Realizing that the wounded man was too heavy to carry, he rolled on his back, placed the man on his chest and through sheer determination and fortitude crawled back to the landing zone using his elbows and heels to push himself along. Pausing for breath momentarily, he returned to the action and came upon a man entangled in the dense, thorny underbrush. Once more intense enemy fire was directed at him, but Chaplain *Liteky* stood his ground and calmly broke the vines and carried the man to the landing zone for evacuation. On several occasions when the landing zone was under small arms and rocket fire, Chaplain *Liteky* stood up in the face of hostile fire and personally directed the medevac helicopters into and out of the area. With the wounded safely evacuated, Chaplain *Liteky* returned to the perimeter, constantly encouraging and inspiring the men. Upon the unit's relief on the morning of 7 December 1967, it was discovered that, despite painful wounds in the neck and foot, Chaplain *Liteky* had personally carried over twenty men



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to the landing zone for evacuation during the savage fighting. Through his indomitable inspiration and heroic actions, Chaplain *Liteky* saved the lives of a number of his comrades and enabled the company to repulse the enemy. Chaplain *Liteky*'s actions reflect great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army. (This award supersedes the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Chaplain *Angelo J. Liteky* for extraordinary heroism on 6 December 1967, as announced in General Orders Number 1317, Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375, dated 26 March 1968.)

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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