

GENERAL ORDERS  
No. 73

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, DC, 20 November 1969

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 *John A. Barnes, III*, United States Army, who distinguished himself by exceptional heroism on 12 November 1967, while engaged in combat against hostile forces in Dak To, Republic of Vietnam. Private *Barnes* was serving as a grenadier when his unit was attacked by a North Vietnamese force, estimated to be a battalion. Upon seeing the crew of a machinegun team killed, Private *Barnes*, without hesitation, dashed through the bullet-swept area, manned the machinegun, and killed nine enemy as they assaulted his position. While pausing just long enough to retrieve more ammunition, Private *Barnes* observed an enemy grenade thrown into the midst of some severely wounded personnel close to his position. Realizing that the grenade could further injure or kill the majority of the wounded personnel, he sacrificed his own life by throwing himself directly onto the hand grenade as it exploded. Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his own safety, and profound concern for his fellow soldiers, he averted a probable loss of life and injury to the wounded members of his unit. Private *Barnes'* 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 military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



GO 73

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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