

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 10

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 23 April 1970

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:

Corporal *Thomas W. Bennett*, [REDACTED], United States Army, who distinguished himself during the period 9 to 11 February 1969 while serving as a platoon medical aidman with the Second Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry during a reconnaissance-in-force mission in the Chu Pa region, Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam. On 9 February the platoon was moving to assist the First Platoon of Company D, which had run into a North Vietnamese ambush, when it became heavily engaged by the intense small arms, automatic weapons, mortar and rocket fire from a well-fortified and numerically superior enemy unit. In the initial barrage of fire, three of the point members of the platoon fell wounded. Corporal *Bennett*, with complete disregard for his own safety, ran through the heavy fire to his fallen comrades, administered lifesaving first aid under fire, and then made repeated trips carrying the wounded men to positions of relative safety from which they could be medically evacuated from the battle position. Corporal *Bennett* repeatedly braved the intense enemy fire, moving across open areas to give aid and comfort to his wounded comrades. He valiantly exposed himself to the heavy fire in order to retrieve the bodies of several fallen personnel. Throughout the night and following day, Corporal *Bennett* moved from position to position treating and comforting the several personnel who had suffered shrapnel and gunshot wounds. On 11 February, Company B again moved in an assault on the well-fortified enemy positions and became heavily engaged with the numerically superior enemy force. Five members of the company fell wounded in the initial assault. Corporal *Bennett* ran to their aid without regard to the heavy fire. He treated one wounded comrade and began running toward another seriously wounded man. Although the wounded man was located forward of the company position covered by heavy enemy grazing fire and Corporal *Bennett* was warned that it was impossible to reach the location, he leaped forward with complete disregard for his own safety to save his comrade's life. In attempting to save his fellow soldier, he was mortally wounded. Corporal *Bennett's* conspicuous gallantry, undaunted concern for his comrades and

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intrepidity at the cost of his own life above and beyond the call of duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

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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