

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 14

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:

Sergeant *Lester R. Stone, Jr.*, [REDACTED], United States Army, who distinguished himself on 3 March 1969 while serving as squad leader of the 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, 23d Infantry Division (Americal). On this date, the 1st Platoon was on a combat patrol mission just west of Landing Zone Liz when it came under intense automatic weapons and grenade fire from a well-concealed company-size force of North Vietnamese regulars. Observing the platoon machine gunner fall critically wounded, Sergeant *Stone* rushed into the open area to the side of his injured comrade. Utilizing the machinegun, Sergeant *Stone* remained in the exposed area to provide cover fire for the wounded soldier who was being pulled to safety by another member of the platoon. With enemy fire impacting all around him, Sergeant *Stone* had a malfunction in the machinegun, preventing him from firing the weapon automatically. Displaying extraordinary courage under the most adverse conditions, Sergeant *Stone* repaired the weapon and continued to place on the enemy positions effective suppressive fire which enabled the rescue to be completed. In a desperate attempt to overrun his position, an enemy force left its cover and charged Sergeant *Stone*. Disregarding the danger involved, Sergeant *Stone* rose to his knees and began placing intense fire on the enemy at pointblank range, killing six of the enemy before falling mortally wounded. His actions of unsurpassed valor were a source of inspiration to his entire unit, and he was responsible for saving the lives of a number of his fellow soldiers. His actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military profession and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.



**GO 14**

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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