

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 22

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:

Specialist Four *Kenneth L. Olson*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the cost of his life on 13 May 1968 while serving as a team leader with Company A, 5th Battalion, 12th Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade (Separate) (Light), in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date Specialist *Olson* was participating in a mission to reinforce a reconnaissance platoon which was heavily engaged with a well-entrenched Viet Cong force. When his platoon moved into the area of contact and had overrun the first line of enemy bunkers, Specialist *Olson* and a fellow soldier moved forward of the platoon to investigate another suspected line of bunkers. As the two men advanced they were pinned down by intense automatic weapons fire from an enemy position 10 meters to their front. With complete disregard for his own safety, Specialist *Olson* exposed himself and hurled a hand grenade into the Viet Cong position. Failing to silence the hostile fire, he again exposed himself to the intense fire in preparation to assault the enemy position. As he prepared to hurl the grenade he was wounded, causing him to drop the activated device within his own position. Realizing that it would explode immediately, Specialist *Olson* threw himself upon the grenade and pulled it in to his body to take the full force of the explosion. By this unselfish action Specialist *Olson* sacrificed his own life to save the lives of his fellow comrades-in-arms. His extraordinary heroism inspired his fellow soldiers to renew their efforts and totally defeat the enemy force. Specialist *Olson's* profound courage and intrepidity were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

GO 22

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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