

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 25 January 1972

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 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 *Joseph G. LaPointe, Jr.*, United States Army, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division, who distinguished himself on 2 June 1969, while serving as a medical aidman during a combat helicopter assault mission in Quang Tin Province, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist *LaPointe's* patrol was advancing from the landing zone through an adjoining valley when it suddenly encountered heavy automatic weapons fire from a large enemy force entrenched in well-fortified bunker positions. In the initial hail of fire, two soldiers in the formation vanguard were seriously wounded. Hearing a call for aid from one of the wounded, Specialist *LaPointe* ran forward through heavy fire to assist his fallen comrades. To reach the wounded men, he was forced to crawl directly in view of an enemy bunker. As members of his unit attempted to provide covering fire, he administered first aid to one man, shielding the other with his body. He was hit by a burst of fire from the bunker while attending the wounded soldier. In spite of his own painful wounds, Specialist *LaPointe* continued his lifesaving duties until he was again wounded and knocked to the ground. Making strenuous efforts, he moved back again into a shielding position to continue administering first aid. An exploding enemy grenade mortally wounded all three men. Specialist *LaPointe's* courageous actions at the cost of his own life were an inspiration to his comrades. His conspicuous gallantry, intrepidity and selflessness are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official.

VERNE L. BOWERS,
*Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.*

W. C. WESTMORELAND
*General, United States Army
Chief of Staff.*

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