

GO 2009-06

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 2009-06

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON, DC, 17 June 2009

### 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 by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to—


**Private First Class Ross A. McGinnis**, 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against an armed enemy while serving as an M2 .50-caliber machine gunner in Adhamiyah, Northeast Baghdad, Iraq on 4 December 2006. That afternoon, his platoon was conducting combat control operations in an effort to reduce and control sectarian violence in the area. While Private First Class McGinnis was manning the M2 .50-caliber Machine Gun, a fragmentation grenade thrown by an insurgent fell through the gunner's hatch into his vehicle. Reacting quickly, he yelled "grenade," allowing all four members of his crew to prepare for the grenade blast. Then, rather than leaping from the gunner's hatch to safety, Private First Class McGinnis made the courageous decision to protect his crew. In a selfless act of bravery, he covered the live grenade, pinning it between his body and the vehicle, absorbing most of the explosion and suffering mortal injuries. His gallant action directly saved four men from certain serious injury or death. Private First Class McGinnis' extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

[DAPE-ZXM]

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

GEORGE W. CASEY, JR.  
*General, United States Army*  
Chief of Staff

Official:

  
JOYCE E. MORROW  
*Administrative Assistant to the*  
*Secretary of the Army*

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