

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 72

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 20 November 1969

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 *Robert F. Stryker*, United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity on 7 November 1967 while serving with Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date Specialist *Stryker* was serving as a grenadier in multi-company reconnaissance-in-force near Loc Ninh. As his unit moved through the dense underbrush, it was suddenly met with a hail of rocket, automatic weapons, and small arms fire from enemy forces concealed in fortified bunkers and in the surrounding trees. Reacting quickly, Specialist *Stryker* fired into the enemy positions with his grenade launcher. During the devastating exchange of fire, Specialist *Stryker* detected enemy elements attempting to encircle his company and isolate it from the main body of the friendly force. Undaunted by the enemy machinegun and small arms fire, Specialist *Stryker* repeatedly fired grenades into the trees, killing enemy snipers and enabling his comrades to sever the attempted encirclement. As the battle continued, Specialist *Stryker* observed several wounded members of his squad in the killing zone of an enemy claymore mine. With complete disregard for his own safety, he threw himself upon the mine as it was detonated. He was mortally wounded as his body absorbed the blast and shielded his comrades from the explosion. His unselfish actions were responsible for saving the lives of at least six of his fellow soldiers. Specialist *Stryker's* great personal bravery was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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

Official:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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