

## AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), 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 the Congress to the following-named enlisted man:

Sergeant *LeRoy A. Mendonca*

Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company B, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Chich-on, Korea, on 4 July 1951. After his platoon, in an exhaustive fight, had captured Hill 588, the newly won positions were assaulted during the night by a numerically superior enemy force. When the 1st Platoon positions were outflanked and under great pressure, and the platoon was ordered to withdraw to a secondary line of defense, Sergeant *Mendonca* voluntarily remained in an exposed position and covered the platoon's withdrawal. Although under murderous enemy fire, Sergeant *Mendonca* fired his weapon and hurled grenades at the onrushing enemy until his supply of ammunition was exhausted. Sergeant *Mendonca* fought on clubbing with his rifle and using his bayonet, until he was mortally wounded. After the action, it was estimated that Sergeant *Mendonca* had accounted for 37 enemy casualties. Sergeant *Mendonca's* daring actions stilled the crushing assault, protecting the platoon's withdrawal to secondary positions, and enabling the entire unit to repel the enemy attack and retain possession of the vital hilltop position. Sergeant *Mendonca's* extraordinary gallantry and exemplary valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Army.



This general order will be read to all troops and will be posted conspicuously on the bulletin boards in each unit area.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

OFFICIAL:

WM. E. BERGIN  
*Major General, USA*  
*The Adjutant General*

J. LAWTON COLLINS  
*Chief of Staff, United States Army*