

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 12

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D.C., 3 April 1968

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:



Private First Class *Lewis Albanese*, United States Army, Company B, 5th Battalion (Air mobile), 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, who distinguished himself by conspicuous heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 1 December 1966. Private *Albanese's* platoon, while advancing through densely covered terrain to establish a blocking position, received intense automatic weapons fire from close range. As other members maneuvered to assault the enemy position, Private *Albanese* was ordered to provide security for the left flank of the platoon. Suddenly, the left flank received fire from enemy located in a well-concealed ditch. Realizing the imminent danger to his comrades from this fire, Private *Albanese* fixed his bayonet and moved aggressively into the ditch. His action silenced the sniper fire, enabling the platoon to resume movement toward the main enemy position. As the platoon continued to advance, the sound of heavy firing emanated from the left flank from a pitched battle that ensued in the ditch which Private *Albanese* had entered. The ditch was actually a well-organized complex of enemy defenses designed to bring devastating flanking fire on forces attacking the main position. Private *Albanese*, disregarding the danger to himself, advanced 100 meters along the trench and killed six of the snipers, who were armed with automatic weapons. Having exhausted his ammunition, Private *Albanese* was mortally wounded when he engaged and killed two more enemy soldiers in fierce hand to hand combat. His unparalleled actions saved the lives of many members of his platoon who otherwise would have fallen to the sniper fire from the ditch, and enabled his platoon to successfully advance against an enemy force of overwhelming numerical superiority. Private *Albanese's* extraordinary heroism and supreme dedication to his comrades were commensurate with the finest traditions of the military service and remain a tribute to himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

HAROLD K. JOHNSON,
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff.

Official:

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

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