

GENERAL ORDERS }
 No. 61

HEADQUARTERS
 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 WASHINGTON, D.C., 22 October 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 by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:



Sergeant *Leonard B. Keller*, US54805484, United States Army, who distinguished himself on 2 May 1967 as a machinegunner with Company A, 3d Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in the Ap Bac Zone, Republic of Vietnam. Sweeping through an area where an enemy ambush had occurred earlier, Sergeant *Keller's* unit suddenly came under intense automatic weapons and small arms fire from a number of enemy bunkers and numerous snipers in nearby trees. Sergeant *Keller* quickly moved to a position where he could fire at a bunker from which automatic weapons fire was received, killing one Viet Cong who attempted to escape. Leaping to the top of a dike, he and a comrade charged the enemy bunkers, dangerously exposing themselves to the enemy fire. Armed with a light machinegun, Sergeant *Keller* and his comrade began a systematic assault on the enemy bunkers. While Sergeant *Keller* neutralized the fire from the first bunker with his machinegun, the other soldier threw in a hand grenade, killing its occupant. Then he and the other soldier charged a second bunker, killing its occupant. A third bunker contained an automatic rifleman who had pinned down much of the friendly platoon. Again, with utter disregard for the fire directed at them, the two men charged, killing the enemy within. Continuing their attack, Sergeant *Keller* and his comrade assaulted four more bunkers, killing the enemy within. During their furious assault, Sergeant *Keller* and his comrade had been almost continuously exposed to intense sniper fire as the enemy desperately sought to stop their attack. The ferocity of their assault had carried the soldiers beyond the line of bunkers into the treeline, forcing the snipers to flee. The two men gave immediate chase, driving the enemy away from the friendly unit. When his ammunition was exhausted, Sergeant *Keller* returned to the platoon to assist in the evacuation of the wounded. The two-man assault had driven an enemy platoon from a well prepared position, accounted for numerous enemy dead, and prevented further friendly casualties. Sergeant *Keller's* selfless heroism, indomitable fighting spirit, and extraordinary gallantry saved the lives of many of his comrades and inflicted serious damage on the enemy. His acts were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.



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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

Official:

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

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

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