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GENERAL ORDERS
No. 40

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *13 June 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 by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

Specialist Four *Thomas J. Kinsman* (then Private First Class) US [redacted], United States Army, who distinguished himself by gallantry and intrepidity in action on the afternoon of 6 February 1968 while serving as a rifleman with Company B, 3d Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, on a reconnaissance-in-force mission near the City of Vinh Long, in the Republic of Vietnam. As his company was proceeding up a narrow canal in armored troop carriers, it came under sudden and intense rocket, automatic weapons and small arms fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force. The company immediately beached and began assaulting the enemy bunker complex. Hampered by exceedingly dense undergrowth which limited visibility to 10 meters, a group of eight men became cut off from the main body of the company. As they were moving through heavy fire to effect a linkup, an enemy soldier in a concealed position hurled a grenade into their midst. Specialist *Kinsman* immediately alerted his comrades of the danger, then unhesitatingly threw himself on the grenade and blocked the explosion with his body. As a result of his courageous action, he received severe head and chest wounds. Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his personal safety and profound concern for his fellow soldiers, specialist *Kinsman* averted loss of life and injury to the other seven men of his element. Specialist *Kinsman*'s conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (This award supersedes the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Specialist Four *Thomas J. Kinsman* (then Private First Class), for extraordinary heroism on 6 February 1968, as announced in General Orders Number 4465, Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375, dated 23 September 1968.)

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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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