GENERAL ORDERS
No. 9

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *23 April 1970*

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 *Peter M. Guenette*, [redacted], United States Army, who distinguished himself while serving as a machine gunner with Company D, 2d Battalion (Airborne), 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) during combat operations in Quan Tan Uyen Province, Republic of Vietnam, on 18 May 1968. While Specialist *Guenette*'s platoon was sweeping a suspected enemy base camp, it came under light harassing fire from a well-equipped and firmly entrenched squad of North Vietnamese Army regulars which was serving as a delaying force at the entrance to their base camp. As the platoon moved within ten meters of the fortified positions, the enemy fire became intense. Specialist *Guenette* and his assistant gunner immediately began to provide a base of suppressive fire, ceasing momentarily to allow the assistant gunner time to throw a grenade into a bunker. Seconds later, an enemy grenade was thrown to Specialist *Guenette's* right flank. Realizing that the grenade would kill or wound at least four men and destroy the machinegun, he shouted a warning and smothered the grenade with his body, absorbing its blast. Through his actions, he prevented loss of life or injury to at least three men and enabled his comrades to maintain their fire superiority. By his conspicuous gallantry at the cost of his own life in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, Specialist *Guenette* has reflected great credit on himself, his unit and the United States Army.

TAGO 774A—May 390-475 c43—70

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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