GENERAL ORDERS
No. 30

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *5 June 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 by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

Captain *Paul W. Bucha*, , Infantry, United States Army, who distinguished himself during the period 16 to 19 March 1968 while serving as Commanding Officer, Company D, 3d Battalion (Airborne), 187th Infantry, 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division on a reconnaissance-in-force mission against enemy forces near Phuoc Vinh, in Binh Duong Province, Republic of Vietnam. The company was inserted by helicopter into the suspected enemy stronghold to locate and destroy the enemy. During this period Captain *Bucha* aggressively and courageously led his men in the destruction of enemy fortifications and base areas and eliminated scattered resistance impeding the advance of the company. On 18 March while advancing to contact, the lead elements of the company became engaged by the heavy automatic weapon, heavy machine gun, rocket-propelled grenade, Claymore mine and small arms fire of an estimated battalion-size force. Captain *Bucha*, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved to the threatened area to direct the defense and ordered reinforcements to the aid of the lead element. Seeing that his men were pinned down by heavy machine gun fire from a concealed bunker located some forty meters to the front of the positions, Captain *Bucha* crawled through the hail of fire to single-handedly destroy the bunker with grenades. During this heroic action Captain *Bucha* received a painful shrapnel wound. Returning to the perimeter, he observed that his unit could not hold its positions and repel the human wave assaults launched by the determined enemy. Captain *Bucha* ordered the withdrawal of the unit elements and covered the withdrawal to positions of a company perimeter from which he could direct fires upon the charging enemy. When one friendly element retrieving casualties was ambushed and cut off from the perimeter, Captain *Bucha* ordered them to feign death and he directed artillery fires around them. During the night Captain *Bucha* moved throughout the position, distributing ammunition, providing encouragement and insuring the integrity of the defense. He directed artillery, helicopter gunship and Air Force gunship fires on the enemy strong points and attacking forces, marking the positions with smoke grenades. Using flashlights in complete view of enemy snipers, he directed the medical evacuation of three air-

ambulance loads of seriously wounded personnel and the helicopter supply of his company. At daybreak Captain *Bucha* led a rescue party to recover the dead and wounded members of the ambushed element. During the period of intensive combat, Captain *Bucha*, by his extraordinary heroism, inspirational example, oustanding leadership and professional competence, led his company in the decimation of a superior enemy force which left 156 dead on the battlefield. By his conspicuous gallantry at the risk of his own life in the highest traditions of the military service, Captain *Bucha* has reflected great credit on himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (This award supersedes the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Captain *Bucha* for extraordinary heroism during the period 16 March to 19 March 1968, as announced in United States Army, Vietnam, General Orders Number 822, 1969.)

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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