GENERAL ORDERS
No. 11

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *9 March 1971*

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 *Donald R. Johnston*, , who distinguished himself on 21 March 1969 while serving as a mortarman with Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division at a fire support base in Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam. Specialist *Johnston*'s company was in defensive positions when it came under a devastating rocket and mortar attack. Under cover of the bombardment, enemy sappers broke through the defensive perimeter and began hurling explosive charges into the main defensive bunkers. Specialist *Johnston* and six of his comrades had moved from their exposed positions to one of the bunkers to continue their fight against the enemy attackers. As they were firing from the bunker, an enemy soldier threw three explosive charges into their position. Sensing the danger to his comrades, Specialist *Johnston*, with complete disregard for his own safety, hurled himself onto the explosive charges, smothering the detonations with his body and shielding his fellow soldiers from the blasts. His heroic action saved the lives of six of his comrades. Specialist *Johnston*'s conspicuous gallantry and concern for his fellow men at the cost of his own life were in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

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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