GENERAL ORDERS
No. 25

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, *21 May 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 *Michael R. Blanchfield*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself on 3 July 1969 while serving as a rifleman in Company A, 4th Battalion, 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade, on a combat patrol in Binh Dinh Province, Republic of Vietnam. The patrol surrounded a group of houses to search for suspects. During the search of one of the huts, a man suddenly ran out toward a nearby tree line. Specialist *Blanchfield*, who was on guard outside the hut, saw the man, shouted for him to halt, and began firing at him as the man ignored the warning and continued to run. The suspect suddenly threw a grenade toward the hut and its occupants. Although the exploding grenade severely wounded Specialist *Blanchfield* and several others, he regained his feet to continue the pursuit of the enemy. The fleeing enemy threw a second grenade which landed near Specialist *Blanchfield* and several members of his patrol. Instantly realizing the danger, he shouted a warning to his comrades. Specialist *Blanchfield* unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own safety, threw himself on the grenade, absorbing the full and fatal impact of the explosion. By his gallant action and self-sacrifice, he was able to save the lives and prevent injury to four members of the patrol and several Vietnamese civilians in the immediate area. Specialist *Blanchfield*'s extraordinary courage and gallantry at the cost of his 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.

GO 25

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

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

Official:
VERNE L. BOWERS,
Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.

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