

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

SECOND LIEUTENANT TERRENCE C. GRAVES

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

PROPOSED CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Platoon Commander with the Third Force Reconnaissance Company, Third Reconnaissance Battalion, Third Marine Division against North Vietnamese forces in northern Quang Tri Province, Republic of Vietnam on 16 February 1968. After establishing a defensive perimeter deep in enemy controlled territory southeast of the Con Thien Combat Outpost, Second Lieutenant GRAVES' long-range reconnaissance patrol observed seven North Vietnamese soldiers approaching their position. Reacting instantly, Second Lieutenant GRAVES rapidly deployed his men and directed a heavy volume of fire upon the advancing enemy. As Second Lieutenant GRAVES and two other members of his patrol commenced a search of the area, they suddenly came under a heavy volume of hostile small arms and automatic weapons fire and sustained a casualty. Ignoring the enemy rounds impacting near him, he unhesitatingly maneuvered across the fire-swept terrain to the side of the injured Marine and, while boldly directing suppressive fire upon the hostile force, ensured that first aid was administered to the wounded man. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, he again maneuvered across the hazardous area to his radio, requested air support and commenced to adjust a heavy volume of artillery fire upon the enemy soldiers. When armed UH-1E helicopters arrived, he ably directed them against the hostile emplacements and then, with the assistance of another Marine, unhesitatingly left his position of relative safety to confirm the results of the earlier ambush. As the two men approached their objective, they observed that several North Vietnamese soldiers were still alive. Disregarding his own safety, Second Lieutenant GRAVES immediately launched a determined assault into the midst of the hostile unit, boldly delivering a heavy volume of fire, which killed the remaining enemy. Returning to his patrol's position, he directed his men to move to the crest of a hill from which a helicopter could extract the casualty. As the reconnaissance team advanced to the landing zone, they suddenly came under intense enemy fire from a numerically superior North Vietnamese Army force, forcing them to withdraw to a bomb crater and consolidate their position. When a CH-46 helicopter attempted to enter the designated landing zone, the intensity of the enemy fire increased and three members of the patrol were seriously wounded, including Second Lieutenant GRAVES. Concerned only for the welfare of his men, he steadfastly refused medical assistance until the other casualties were treated. Ignoring his painful injuries, he continued to adjust air strikes and artillery fire upon the enemy while shouting words of encouragement to his Marines and directing the employment of personal weapons with maximum effectiveness. After selecting a second landing zone, he

quickly led his men to the designated area and skillfully guided the aircraft into the position. Fearlessly exposing himself to the increasing volume of hostile fire, he steadfastly remained beside the helicopter until his men were aboard and then, realizing that a wounded Marine had not been embarked, resolutely directed the aircraft to depart the zone. When one of his men debarked the helicopter to assist him, Second Lieutenant GRAVES moved to the side of his injured comrade. Despite a critical shortage of ammunition and faced with the impossible situation of three men against approximately two North Vietnamese Army companies, he calmly utilized supporting arms and directed his men's fire until a second helicopter arrived. Again the volume of enemy fire reached a vicious intensity and after extracting the beleaguered Marines, the aircraft suddenly crashed. His gallant actions and extraordinary heroism saved the lives of numerous Marines and prevented the small force from being completely annihilated by the enemy. Second Lieutenant GRAVES' courage, intrepid fighting spirit and selfless devotion to duty sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life in the service of his country."

(Signature of the President)