

The President of the United States in the name of the Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL of HONOR to

LANCE CORPORAL JOSE FRANCISCO JIMENEZ

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS:

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Fire Team Leader with the 2nd Platoon of Company "K", 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, in the Republic of Vietnam. Lance Corporal Jose F. JIMENEZ was with the 2nd Platoon while on a company size search and clear operation. As the unit approached the suspected enemy position it came under intense small arms from twenty (20) North Vietnamese soldiers and a 12.75 Anti-Aircraft Weapon, hidden in spider holes and well-camouflaged positions. Realizing the threat which the enemy posed to his platoon and ultimately to his company, Lance Corporal JIMENEZ, displaying exceptional courage, dashed into the high grass to lead his platoon in the assault. Moving amidst heavy automatic weapons fire and a barrage of exploding grenades, he charged an enemy soldier that was moving through the grass. Advancing to within 15 meters of the enemy soldier, Lance Corporal JIMENEZ killed him with an accurate burst of M-16 Rifle fire. Undaunted by the surprise appearance of the enemy soldier, he turned toward the enemy anti-aircraft gun that was pouring out devastating fire upon his platoon. With complete disregard for his own life, Lance Corporal JIMENEZ ran across 20 meters of open area toward the enemy position. Again defying the heavy volume of enemy fire impacting around him, he assaulted the 12.75 Anti-Aircraft Gun position, heaving grenades and firing his M-16 Rifle. As the grenades found their target, the position was destroyed and the enemy gunner killed. His primary mission accomplished, he turned, shouting words of encouragement, and charged forward into the shoulder high grass. Spotting another NVA soldier 10 meters to his front firing intently from a cleverly concealed spider hole, Lance Corporal JIMENEZ dropped to his hands and knees, crawling toward the enemy position, completely unnoticed by the enemy soldier. At the precise moment he reached the position, the enemy soldier raised himself from the spider hole. With quick reaction, Lance Corporal JIMENEZ dropped a grenade into the spider hole, killing the enemy soldier. Moving from the position he detected two enemy soldiers 15 meters across an open area, well concealed in a treeline, firing directly into the remainder of the assaulting Marines. Lance Corporal JIMENEZ, oblivious of the enemy fire impacting all around him, began inching his way forward to

within 10 feet of the enemy position, at which time he jumped to his feet and killed both of the enemy soldiers with a tremendous burst of automatic fire from his M-16 Rifle. Still shouting words of encouragement and urging his fellow Marines forward, Lance Corporal JIMENEZ sought out the sixth enemy soldier from deep within the tree line. It was during this last relentless effort that snipers on the left flank and to the rear of the enemy positions, cognizant of the near fatal impact generated by this one Marine's singular assault, concentrated their fire on Lance Corporal JIMENEZ, mortally wounding him. This act of extraordinary courage by one of their fellow Marines so inspired the remainder of Lance Corporal JIMENEZ's platoon that they assaulted into the heavy volume of fire and completely overran the remaining enemy positions, accounting for nine (9) North Vietnamese killed and numerous weapons and equipment captured. Lance Corporal JIMENEZ's valiant leadership and courageous fighting spirit served to inspire his fellow Marines to the heights of heroic endeavor, reflecting the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.