

Ethel FARZLER

8-31-81 5



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
HEADQUARTERS, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC
APO, SAN FRANCISCO 96310

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL to

CORPORAL GEORGE JOSEPH PHILLIPS
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For heroic achievement in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam while serving as a Fire Team Leader with the First Platoon, Company M, Third Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division. On 4 September 1967 during Operation Swift, Company M came under enemy automatic weapons and mortar fire from a large North Vietnamese Army force. In the ensuing fire fight, the platoon commander of the First Platoon was seriously wounded and the platoon sergeant was pinned down by the heavy volume of enemy fire forward of the unit's position. Upon receiving the order to move the platoon along the forward slope of the Hill and establish defensive positions with the second and third platoons, Corporal PHILLIPS ignored the enemy fire around him and immediately maneuvered his fire team into position within the company perimeter. Repeatedly exposing himself to enemy machine gun and small arms fire, he assisted other elements of the platoon as they moved into position and insured that the unit's defenses were effectively consolidated. After the platoon sergeant assumed command of the unit, Corporal PHILLIPS courageously led his fire team forward of the platoon's positions on five separate occasions and began moving his wounded companions to the safety of the perimeter. While assisting one Marine to a covered position, he was wounded in the leg by mortar fragments, however, after applying a pressure bandage to his painful injury, he successfully moved his comrade to safety. Subsequently, Corporal PHILLIPS helped prepare a medical evacuation landing zone and, despite his own injuries, refused evacuation and unhesitatingly returned to his unit. As a result of the seriousness of his wounds, he was medically evacuated from the battle area the following day. Corporal PHILLIPS' determined fighting spirit, courageous actions and selfless concern for the welfare of his comrades inspired all those who observed him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

Corporal PHILLIPS is authorized to wear the Combat "V".

FOR THE PRESIDENT

V. M. KRULAK
LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS
COMMANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC

ENCLOSURE (1)