

C I T A T I O N

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT

THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL
IS PRESENTED TO

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3 THOMAS U. WAY US51774607

UNITED STATES ARMY

For distinguishing himself by outstanding achievement in connection with ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam during the period:

7 SEPTEMBER 1967 TO 9 OCTOBER 1967

Through his untiring efforts and professional ability, he obtained outstanding results. He was quick to grasp the implications of new problems with which he was faced as a result of the ever changing situations inherent in a counterinsurgency operation and to find ways and means to solve those problems. The energetic application of his extensive knowledge has materially contributed to the efforts of the United States Mission to the Republic of Vietnam to assist that country in ridding itself of the communist threat to its freedom. His initiative, zeal, sound judgment and devotion to duty have been in the highest tradition of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.



HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D. C., 20315

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGPB-AC Way, Thomas U.
US 51 774 607 (9 Oct 67)

14 DEC 1967

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Way
34 Shepard Street
Rochester, New York 14620

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Way:

I have the honor to inform you that your late son has been awarded posthumously the Bronze Star Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster for heroism.

The officer selected to make presentation will communicate with you and arrange for a ceremony in accordance with your wishes.

My continued sympathy is with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kenneth G. Wickham".

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

21 JUN 1968

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGPB-AC Way, Thomas U.
US 51 774 607 (9 Oct 67)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Way
34 Shepard Street
Rochester, New York 14620

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Way:

I have the honor to inform you that the Government of the Republic of Vietnam has awarded posthumously to your son the Military Merit Medal and the Gallantry Cross with Palm.

Arrangements are being made to have these awards delivered to you in the near future by a representative of the Commanding General, First United States Army.

The representative selected will communicate with you in the next few weeks to arrange for delivery. Any inquiry or correspondence concerning delivery should be addressed to the Commanding General, First United States Army, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755.

My continued sympathy is with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kenneth G. Wickham", is positioned above the typed name.

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

HEADQUARTERS 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96370

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 6101

10 November 1967

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced posthumously.

WAY, THOMAS U. US5177L607 PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3 United States Army
Company E, 2d Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, APO 96371

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device (First Oak Leaf Cluster)

Date action: 9 October 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism in connection with military actions involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam:

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WAY

distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 9 October 1967, while serving as a rifleman on a search and destroy mission in the western portion of Long Thanh Province, Vietnam. As the unit moved across an area of open rice paddies, it suddenly came under an intense volume of automatic and semi-automatic weapons fire from a well concealed Viet Cong force. Without regard for personal safety and fully aware of the peril of the situation, Private Way gallantly charged across the open terrain, directing a devastating volume of firepower on the insurgents. Although seriously wounded in the ensuing action, Private Way heroically continued to fight until he succumbed to his wounds. Private Way's extreme courage and aggressive determination were an inspiration to all those with whom he served and contributed significantly to the overwhelming defeat of the enemy force. Private First Class Way's personal bravery and unwavering dedication to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the 9th Infantry Division, and the United States Army.

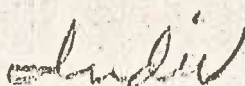
Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962.

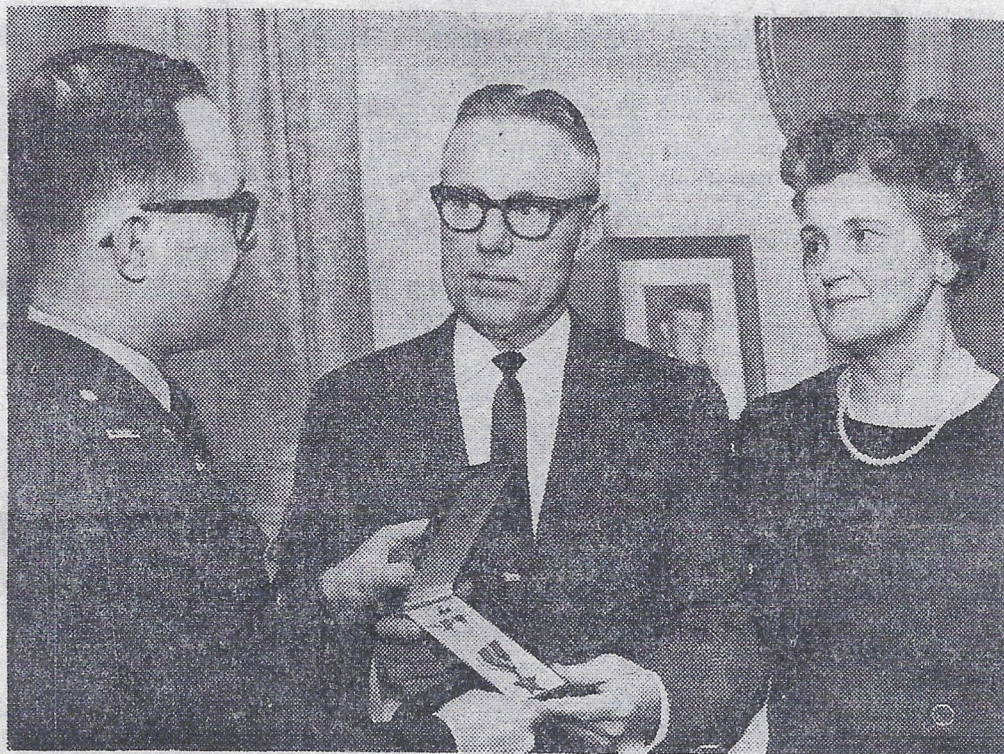
FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:


ROBERT J. TRAYLOR
LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

M. W. KENDALL
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff





For Their Son

Army Lt. John J. Boyle presents a Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Way of 34 Shepard St. in a posthumous award for their son, Pfc. Thomas H. Way, who was killed Oct. 9 during action against the Viet Cong in the Mekong Delta. A citation from his commanding officer said Pfc. Way, when his unit suddenly came under intense gunfire, "without regard for personal safety and fully aware of the peril of the

situation . . . gallantly charged across the open terrain, directing a devastating volume of firepower on the insurgents. Although seriously wounded in the ensuing action, Private Way heroically continued to fight until he succumbed to his wounds." Pfc. Way, 23, a graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School, received a bachelor's degree in 1966 from St. John Fisher College.



10/04/1944 Born in NJ to
Lorraine & Robert Way

1949 Moved to Rochester

1958 Graduated from Blessed
Sacrament School

1962 Graduated from McQuaid
Jesuit High School

1966 Graduated from St John
Fisher College

1966 Joined Eastman Kodak

09/07/67-10/09/67 Served in Vietnam

10/09/67 KIA serving as a rifleman on a Search and
Destroy mission in the Mekong Delta

11/10/67 Awarded Bronze Star Medal with
"v" Device and Oak Cluster for
Valor and Heroism

11/11/2015 Dedication of Bronze Statue of Tom on St. John Fisher campus

10/01/2016 Posthumous induction of Tom into
McQuaid Knights of the Round Table

"A soldier is never forgotten until no one utters his name."
(Anonymous)

"I CRIED LAST NIGHT"

Pfc. Thomas H. Way was killed in Vietnam early this month.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Way of Rochester, a graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High and, in 1966, of St. John Fisher College. He was also a newspaper boy who delivered a paper daily to his neighbor Louis Ouzer who wrote the following when notified of the young man's death.

I cried last night--But, not with tears--as we know them.
...That cling to your face--tiny...but firm--
And as we brush them away...into space...there are--others to take their place...

My tears...were transparent--thoughts of the past...--And only time has its way--of molding them...into--shapes and forms....

Your red hair...Your autumn face...Your inner smile--Your clothes always neat--and in place.

And, yet I question...the space on earth... that you--gave away...for no one--will fill it...

It's the empty spaces...of Wars' past--That melt yesterdays' tears--into wellsprings of memories.

As the children on our street--sing and play-- God has taken you away--Thomas Way.

Rochester Times Union

October, 1967

• NOV 58





Tom was an altar boy at Blessed Sacrament Church, McQuaid Jesuit High School and St. John Fisher College. Tom served Bishop James E. Kearney as his personal altar boy. The Bishop loved Tom and showed this by inviting the family to his mansion on East Ave. to attend Mass in his chapel and have breakfast with him afterwards on New Year's morning in 1961. It was a major event for the family.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

To FAMILY Tom was the gregarious red-head with a ready smile and a zest for life.

To FRIENDS Tom was a magnet. He was outgoing, a practical joker and fiercely loyal.

Tom was a NATURAL ATHLETE (soccer, baseball, basketball and golf). He was on the Athletic Council at McQuaid and earned 4 Letters in Soccer at St. John Fisher College. He formed many friendships on the playing field both at home and among the Vietnam Children.

A fellow friend and soldier wrote that "Thomas Way got an early promotion when on 10/09/67 he stood before his Creator whom I believe gave him a resounding 'Welcome Home Tom!' There will be no more pain, no more sorrow, and no more tears and I am sure Tom would be honored and thankful for your remembrance of him."



Tom Way 9/2/1967, NYC



Tom Way 10/6/1967, Vietnam