

# Enlisted Hero Walk Lackland AFB



## **Master Sergeant Bruce J. Stephens**



*Silver Star*

*Vietnam*

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918 (amended by an act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Private First Class Bruce J. Stephens, United States Army, for gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force on 9 August 1969 while serving as a rifleman with the Aero Rifle Platoon of the Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date he volunteered to participate in a mission to capture several enemy soldiers spotted in an area west of An Loc. After being inserted into the area, the friendly element began moving through dense jungle in search of the hostile troops. When two of the enemies were spotted, Private Stephens flanked the position and covered the two soldiers with his rifle while other members of the search element secured and interrogated the prisoners. Information gathered from the two soldiers included the size of the hostile force operating in the area and the location of four more enemy troops who were later taken prisoners. Upon learning that aerial observers had spotted a large enemy force approaching, the friendly element quickly

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returned to the landing zone for extraction. Private First Class Stephens's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.