

Robert Williard Hartstock

DOC 2/23/69

Cumberland, MD

Age: 24

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action, at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty, SSgt. Hartsock, distinguished himself in action while serving as section leader with the 44th Infantry Platoon, Scout Dog.

When the Dau Tieng Base Camp came under a heavy enemy rocket and mortar attack, SSgt. Hartsock, and his platoon commander, spotted an enemy sapper squad, which had infiltrated undetected. Realizing the enemy squad was heading for the brigade tactical operations center, and a nearby prisoner compound, they concealed themselves and although heavily outnumbered, awaited the approach of the hostile soldiers. When the enemy was almost upon them, SSgt. Hartsock and his platoon commander, opened fire on the squad. As a wounded enemy soldier fell, he managed to detonate a satchel charge he was carrying.

SSgt. Hartsock, with complete disregard for his life, threw himself on the charge and was gravely wounded. In spite of his wounds, SSgt. Hartsock crawled about five meters to a ditch and provided heavy suppressive fire, completely pinning down the enemy and allowing his commander to seek shelter. SSgt. Hartsock continued his deadly stream of fire until he succumbed to his wounds.

SSgt. Hartsock's extraordinary heroism and profound concern for the lives of his fellow soldiers were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit to him, his unit, and the United States Army.

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Robert Adams

(301) 722-5700 WORK  
HOME

10:00



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5471 ✓  
1294 ✓

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FAMILY MEMBERS

COUNTRY CEMETERY

RECORD

777-2185

RUN PLATT

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VIETNAM MEDAL OF HONOR HEROES

OSCAR P. AUSTIN

During the early morning hours of February 23, the NVA hit an observation post outside Da Nang manned by marines from Company E, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. PFC *Oscar P. Austin*, a twenty-one-year-old from Phoenix, Arizona, went to the aid of a fallen marine. As he neared the man a grenade hit the ground nearby. Austin threw himself between the injured marine and the grenade. He caught the full effect of the explosion. Still concerned only with the other man, Austin was turning toward him when he saw an enemy soldier aiming a rifle at the marine. Austin deliberately placed himself in front of the man. He died from the burst of rifle fire.

ROBERT W. HARTSOCK

At almost the same time Austin was dying the VC hit the 25th Infantry Division's base camp at Dau Tieng in Hau Nghia Province. A twenty-four-year-old dog handler with the 44th Scout Dog Platoon, Staff Sgt. *Robert W. Hartsock* spotted a sapper team advancing on the tactical operations center. Accompanied by his platoon commander, Hartsock set up an ambush for the enemy. When he opened fire the VC tossed a satchel charge at the two men. Hartsock fell on it as it exploded, protecting the officer. Gravely wounded, he continued firing at the enemy until he succumbed to his wounds.

LESTER W. WEBER

On the afternoon of February 23, 1969, the 2nd Platoon of Company M, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division went to the rescue of a squad pinned down by the enemy in Bo Ban village in Quang Nam Province. While moving through a rice

paddy it, too, *Webster* set off on attack and cost h with Viet Cong. He destroyed fo fifth when a bur:

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# MEDAL of HONOR



*above  
and  
beyond*



Staff Sergeant  
Robert W. Hartsock

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Kelley



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**Staff Sergeant  
Robert W. Hartsock**

**United States Army**  
(Native of Flintstone, Md.)

**Killed in Action — North of Saigon, Vietnam,  
February 23, 1969 - Vietnam War.**

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*Sgt. Hartsock's following citation details the action which earned him posthumously, The Congressional Medal of Honor.*

"Staff Sergeant Robert W. Hartsock, United States Army, who distinguished himself on 23 February 1969, by conspicuous gallantry in action while serving as section leader with the 44th Infantry Platoon, 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division in Hua Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam.

"On this date, when the Dau Tieng Base Camp came under a heavy enemy rocket and mortar attack, Sergeant Hartsock and his platoon commander spotted an enemy sapper squad which had infiltrated the camp undetected. Realizing the enemy squad was heading for the brigade tactical operations center and nearby prisoner compound, they concealed themselves and, although heavily outnumbered, awaited the approach of the hostile soldiers. When the enemy was almost upon them, Sergeant Hartsock and his platoon commander opened fire on the squad. As a wounded enemy soldier fell, he managed to detonate a satchel charge he was carrying.

"Sergeant Hartsock, with complete disregard for his own life, threw himself on the charge and was gravely wounded. In spite of his wounds, Sergeant Hartsock crawled about 5 meters to a ditch and provided heavy suppressive fire, completely pinning down the enemy and allowing his commander to seek shelter. Sergeant Hartsock continued his deadly stream of fire until he succumbed to his wounds.

"Sergeant Hartsock's valorous efforts resulted in the disruption of the enemy squad's mission, saved his platoon commander's life and, indirectly, the lives of many other comrades. Sergeant Hartsock's extraordinary heroism and profound concern for the lives of his fellow soldiers were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

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Sgt. Hartsock is buried in Rocky Gap Veterans' Cemetery.