



**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER, WASHINGTON, D. C.
NAVAL AND MARINE RESERVE**

The Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting
the **NAVY COMMENDATION MEDAL** to

HOSPITALMAN DENNIS WILLIAM MCALLEN

UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For heroic achievement while serving as a Corpsman with Company I, Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam. While participating in Operation Foster in Quang Son Province, Hospitalman MCALLEN unhesitatingly exposed himself to enemy fire on numerous occasions in order to render aid to wounded Marines. On 19 November 1967, when his unit came under intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire, he repeatedly disregarded his own safety to administer first aid to casualties and assist them to positions of relative safety. When several members of his unit were wounded and pinned down by automatic weapons fire on 20 November, he fearlessly moved across an open rice paddy to the injured men and rendered medical assistance, remaining with the Marines in their precarious position until the enemy fire was suppressed. When his unit was again in heavy contact with a hostile force on 21 November, he expeditiously established an aid station where he skillfully treated the casualties and, on one occasion, calmly applied mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a critically wounded Marine in an attempt to keep him alive until medical evacuation helicopters arrived. His heroic and timely actions in the face of great personal danger were an inspiration to all who observed him and saved the lives of several Marines. By his courage, professionalism and selfless devotion to duty, Hospitalman MCALLEN upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

Hospitalman MCALLEN is authorized to wear the Combat "V".

FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

V. H. KRULAK

LIEUTENANT GENERAL, U. S. MARINE CORPS
COMBANDING GENERAL, FLEET MARINE FORCE, PACIFIC

VETERAN'S NAME: WERNER WILLIAM H. NALLER
First Name, Middle Name, Last Name (Type or Print)

Social Security Number: [REDACTED] VA File Number: [REDACTED]

The following statements are made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above named veteran.

(Please use a separate form for each incident/event)

Date of Incident (maximum 60 day time period):
 Geographic location where the event took place (city, town, country, province, landmarks, or military installation): Quang Nam Province, Republic of Viet Nam
Phu Bai, Republic of Viet Nam
 Various firefights, operations against NVA (Operation Knox, Operation Foster)
 Various battles, ambushes throughout Dai Loc, Hai Hoa, Phu Loc 6
 Unit you were in at the time of the event/incident and dates of assignment to unit (please include battalion, regiment, brigade, division, squadron, ship down to your squad level if possible):
India Company, 7th Battalion, 7th Marines (1st Platoon) - August 3rd 1967 to March 1968

Complete names of others involved, killed, wounded, in the event/incident (need at least a last name):
LT Larry Nelson (1st Platoon Commander), J. Baggetta (Squad Co Commander), SGT SAM [REDACTED] (Sgt F-Load), Sgt Tully (KIA in early 1968), 1KA HULLMAN (KIA 1968), LT Mullins (3rd Platoon Com), LT Boyd Faithful (2nd Platoon Commander), Sgt Belkwell, ART O'FARRELL (PARADISE)

Description of Incident:
See citation attached covering Nov 17, 19 & 20th, 1967 (Operation Foster)

OCT 17th (Approx) 1967 - Phu Bai - Recon team code-named "Petered" ambushed near Phu Bai (Phu Loc 6). One survivor on recon team - sucking chest wound - couldn't bring chopper in b/c in mountains. So chopper hovered while I placed to Marine on a cone a cable lowered from chopper - tried to lift the two of us into the hovering chopper - took a long time to get us into the chopper b/c the downdraft from the blades made the cable swing violently. The wounded Marine was unconscious so I was holding him b/w my legs w/ my arms wrapped around the cable. I am very fearful of heights but there was no way to get him out and he was dying. When the chopper would swing one way it was near the hills so it wasn't so bad but when it would swing the other way it was over the valley which was very high. I was scared to death but wanted to do the right thing to try to save the wounded Marine. (This is very hard to write) He and I were very vulnerable in this position and I honestly thought that we would be wiped and killed or that the NVA would try to down the chopper. I don't know how long we swung there or the name of the wounded Marine. When they finally got us in through the bottom of the chopper - the crew jumped on the

end of (Additional Space On Reverse)

(over)

hopper (while we were hoisted to Da Nang) told me that it was the bravest frog that he had ever seen. When we landed in Da Nang, the crew asked me if I needed anything. I said that I needed to know how to get back to my unit which was @ South Bon bridge southwest of Da Nang. They said they meant items that they had which I couldn't get in the bush. I didn't drink alcohol then so I said no. They told me again that I was incredibly brave to hang on to that cable and that the wounded marines would be fine. I don't know their names but if you find them, I'm sure they'd remember me.

I was not w/ my unit (1st Platoon) when this event happened. I was w/ Headquarters platoon commanded by Capt J. Baggett who witnessed what I've written above. There was another corpsman present - Harry "Doc" Gibbs who was the corpsman for Capt Baggett. He witnessed what I've written. If you check, I'm sure Capt Baggett was gutsy enough to have made the Marines his career - he must be a general or a colonel by now or when he retired.

His was very kind for me to write - extremely painful.

I certify that the statements on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sherman W. The Villen

University Pl; WA 98467

(daytime)
(evening)