

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MELVIN E. NEWLIN  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a machine gunner attached to the First Platoon, Company F, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division, in the Republic of Vietnam on 3 and 4 July 1967. Private Newlin, with four other marines, was manning a key position on the perimeter of the Nong Son outpost when the enemy launched a savage and well coordinated mortar and infantry assault, seriously wounding him and killing his four comrades. Propping himself against his machine gun, he poured a deadly accurate stream of fire into the charging ranks of the Viet Cong. Though repeatedly hit by small arms fire, he twice repelled enemy attempts to overrun his position. During the third attempt, a grenade explosion wounded him again and knocked him to the ground unconscious. The Viet Cong guerrillas, believing him dead, bypassed him and continued their assault on the main force. Meanwhile, Private Newlin regained consciousness, crawled back to his weapon, and brought it to bear on the rear of the enemy causing havoc and confusion among them. Spotting the enemy attempting to bring a captured 106 recoilless weapon to bear on other marine positions, he shifted his fire, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and preventing them from firing the captured weapon. He then shifted his fire back to the primary enemy force, causing the enemy to stop their assault on the marine bunkers and to once again attack his machine gun position. Valiantly fighting off two more enemy assaults, he firmly held his ground until mortally wounded. Private Newlin had singlehandedly broken up and disorganized the entire enemy assault force, causing them to lose momentum and delaying them long enough for his fellow marines to organize a defense and beat off their secondary attack. His indomitable courage, fortitude, and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of almost certain death reflected great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps and upheld the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

NAME: Private First Class Melvin E. Newlin, , USMC (Deceased)

ORGANIZATION:

First Platoon, Company F, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Vietnam (at time of act)

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH:

September 27, 1948, Wellsville, Ohio

PARENTS:

Mr. Joseph L. Newlin,  
Mrs. Ruth J. Newlin,

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

Robert H. Newlin,  
Charles W. Newlin,  
Paul R. Newlin,  
Mrs. Ruth Buckel (Sister),  
Mary E. Newlin (Sister),

CIVILIAN AND MILITARY SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

Daw High School (Wellsville, Ohio) - 1962-1964  
East Palestine High School (East Palestine, Ohio) - 1964-1965  
West Branch High School (Westville, Ohio) - 1965  
Wellsville High School (Wellsville, Ohio) - Graduated, June 6, 1966

SUMMARY OF SERVICE:

Enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps, July 18, 1966 at Cleveland, Ohio

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Jul 66 - Sep 66 | Recruit Training, 1st Recruit Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C. |
| Sep 66 - Oct 66 | Infantry Training, Weapons Special Training, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N. C.                |
| Oct 66 - Nov 66 | Machine Gunner, Company F, 2d Battalion, 2d Marines, 2d Marine Division, FMF, Camp Lejeune, N. C.  |
| Nov 66 - Mar 67 | Leave, processing and enroute to Vietnam   |
| Mar 67 - Jul 67 | Machine Gunner, Company F, 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF.             |
|                 | Killed in action, July 4, 1967, Quang Nam Province, Republic of Vietnam                            |

OVERSEAS SERVICE:

Vietnam

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Purple Heart  
National Defense Service Medal  
Vietnam Service Medal  
Vietnamese Military Merit Medal  
Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm  
Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

PROMOTION:

Private First Class, January 1, 1967

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MELVIN E. NEWLIN, USMC (DECEASED)

Melvin Earl Newlin was born September 27, 1948, in Wellsville, Ohio. He graduated from Wellsville High School, June 6, 1966.

On July 18, 1966, he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps at Cleveland, Ohio, and was ordered to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina, where he received recruit training with the 1st Recruit Training Battalion. Upon graduation in September 1966, he was transferred to Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and underwent Infantry Training with the 2d Infantry Training Battalion, 1st Infantry Training Regiment, then completed Weapons Special Training.

In October 1966, he was assigned duty as a machine gunner with Company F, 2d Battalion, 2d Marines, 2d Marine Division, FMF, at Camp Lejeune.

He was transferred to the Republic of Vietnam in March 1967, and joined the 2d Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF, and participated in numerous operations, including Operations NEW CASTLE, MOUNTAIN GOAT, UNION, and CALHOUN. While serving as a machine gunner with the 1st Platoon in Quang Nam Province, he was mortally wounded on July 4, 1967. He was promoted to private first class, January 1, 1967.

His medals and decorations include: the Purple Heart; the National Defense Service Medal; the Vietnam Service Medal; the Vietnamese Military Merit Medal; the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm; and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Private First Class Newlin is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Newlin of 1312 Commerce Street, Wellsville; three brothers, Robert H., Charles W., and Paul R.; and two sisters, Mrs. Ruth Buckel, and Mary E. Newlin.

(Prepared Nov 1968 HQMC)