



—Herald-Examiner Photo

SILVER STAR, AIR MEDAL TO WAR HERO
 Earline Cawthorne receives posthumous decoration
 for husband, William, from Col. Mark F. Brennan

Honors for Lt. Cawthorne

Widow Gets Medals Of Viet Nam Hero

A Culver City soldier's heroic death in South Viet Nam was poignantly vivid in the mind of his young widow today following solemn military ceremonies at Fort MacArthur.

The Silver Star — the nation's third highest for war heroes — and the Air Medal with nine Oak Leaf clusters were awarded posthumously yesterday to 2nd Lt. William B. Cawthorne. They were presented yesterday to his widow, Earline G. Cawthorne, by Col. Mark F. Brennan, post commander.

Mrs. Cawthorne, 24, of Redondo Beach, accompanied by her father, Jay Morris, also of Redondo Beach, and her sister, Mrs. Beverly Ma-

Honors for Lt. Cawthorne

Widow Gets Medals Of Viet Nam Hero

A Culver City soldier's heroic death in South Viet Nam was poignantly vivid in the mind of his young widow today following solemn military ceremonies at Fort MacArthur.

The Silver Star — the nation's third highest for war heroes — and the Air Medal with nine Oak Leaf clusters were awarded posthumously yesterday to 1st Lt. William B. Cawthorne. They were presented yesterday to his widow, Earline G. Cawthorne, by Col. Mark F. Brennan, post commander.

Mrs. Cawthorne, 24, of Redondo Beach, accompanied by her father, Jay Morris, also of Redondo Beach, and her sister, Mrs. Beverly Mason of Fairview, gazed tearfully downward as the account of her husband's heroism and tragic death last July 30 was read.

Lt. Cawthorne, 25, an infantryman with the 52nd Aviation Battalion, was shot down in a helicopter escorting an unarmed Marine helicopter on a reconnaissance flight.

"When the helicopters became the target of sporadic small arms fire," according to the citation, "he skillfully maneuvered his aircraft close to the terrain to cover departure of the cargo helicopters."

"Despite his own mortal chest wounds, he continued his courageous efforts by successfully evacuating the pilot — injured when the aircraft crashed into the rugged countryside — moments before the demolished helicopter was engulfed in flames."

A graduate of Culver City High School, Lt. Cawthorne attended Santa Monica City College for two years before entering the Army 2½ years ago. Mrs. Cawthorne, who resides with her four-year-old daughter, Kelly, previously was presented her husband's Purple Heart citation with Oak Leaf cluster.