

Class of '65 graduate presents Medal of Honor to Academy

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Paul Bucha,
Class of '65

**By Staff Sgt. Anita Whitaker
USMA, Public Affairs**

Paul Bucha presented the U.S. Military Academy with the Medal of Honor he received for his actions during the Vietnam War at a ceremony held Friday at Arvin Gymnasium.

As a captain assigned to Company D, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., Bucha earned the Medal of Honor, according to the citation, "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." The date of action was March 16-18, 1968.

In a 1970 ceremony at the White House, then President Richard M. Nixon presented Bucha with the Medal of Honor.

USMA Superintendent Lt. Gen. Daniel W. Christman said Bucha was making the donation to the Academy "... to inspire generations to follow and symbolically give back to this institution what it gave to us."

Bucha spoke to the assembled officers and future officers about leadership.

"Leaders should be competent, professional and have the absolute intestinal fortitude to use the last ounce in you to minimize the risk to the men and women in your command," he said.

Bucha said he wanted to present the Medal of Honor to the Academy to serve as an inspiration to the cadets.

"I want this to be a reminder to each and every one of us, and every one of the men and women that you command, that we have the potential to do something extraordinary under certain circumstances," Bucha said. "This is where it (the Medal of Honor) belongs, because this is where young men and women are learning to train troops."

The award is on display inside the front entrance to Arvin Gymnasium, above Bucha's Medal of Honor plaque.



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