



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, has awarded the Silver Star to

CAPTAIN RONALD D. RAY, UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for gallantry in action:

Captain Ronald D. Ray distinguished himself by gallantry in action against an armed hostile force on 30 and 31 July 1967, while serving as United States Marine Corps Assistant Advisor to a Vietnamese Marine battalion during Operation Coronado II in the vicinity of Cai Lay, Vietnam. The mission involved trapping over 1,000 Viet Cong in a dense woodline, and Captain Ray led the first wave of friendly forces as it hit the landing zone. He and his fellow soldiers were immediately engulfed in a hail of enemy mortar, rocket, automatic weapons, and small arms fire. Disregarding completely his own safety, Captain Ray encouraged his men and let them aggressively across the open rice paddies. They became pinned down by withering fire behind low earthen dikes, which offered little protection because many Viet Cong snipers were mounted high in the tree line. With heavy fire all about him, Captain Ray exposed himself ceaselessly to the insurgents in order to call in artillery fire, gunships, and air strikes throughout the day. As darkness fell and air support became less effective, Captain Ray was hit, painfully wounded, and knocked unconscious by a mortar fragment. Regaining consciousness at approximately 0530, Captain Ray valiantly disregarded the agonizing wound and once more called for indirect fire support. Due greatly to his determination, the Viet Cong were eventually routed. Captain Ray's heroic actions in close combat with a hostile force are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Marine Corps.

