

GENERAL ORDERS }
No. 96

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 29 December 1953

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR



By direction of the President, under the act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (WD Bul. 43, 1918), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of the Congress to the following-named enlisted man:



Corporal *Benito Martinez*



Infantry, United States Army, a machine gunner with Company A, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and outstanding courage above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy near Satae-ri, Korea, on 6 September 1952. While manning a listening post forward of the main line of resistance, his position was attacked by a hostile force of reinforced company strength. In the bitter fighting which ensued, the enemy infiltrated the defense perimeter and, realizing that encirclement was imminent, Corporal *Martinez* elected to remain at his post in an attempt to stem the onslaught. In a daring defense, he raked the attacking troops with crippling fire, inflicting numerous casualties. Although contacted by sound power phone several times, he insisted that no attempt be made to rescue him because of the danger involved. Soon thereafter, the hostile forces rushed the emplacement, forcing him to make a limited withdrawal with only an automatic rifle and pistol to defend himself. After a courageous 6-hour stand and shortly before dawn, he called in for the last time, stating that the enemy was converging on his position. His magnificent stand enabled friendly elements to reorganize, attack, and regain the key terrain. Corporal *Martinez'* incredible valor and supreme sacrifice reflect lasting glory on himself and are in keeping with the honored traditions of the military service.



TAGO 2480B—Dec. 270482*—53

Return to FMH Branch
Compt Div., TAGO

This general order will be read to all troops and will be posted conspicuously on the bulletin boards in each unit area.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

M. B. RIDGWAY,
*General, United States Army,
Chief of Staff.*

OFFICIAL:

WM. E. BERGIN,
*Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.*

DISTRIBUTION:

According to requirements submitted on DA Form 12.