

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96266

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 745

23 July 1968

AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

TAFOYA, RUDY M US54900236 (SSAN: 524-66-9227) PRIVATE FIRST CLASS E3 United States Army BATTERY D (MACHINE GUN) 71ST ARTILLERY APO 96266

Awarded: Bronze Star Medal with "V" device

Date action: 18 February 1968

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

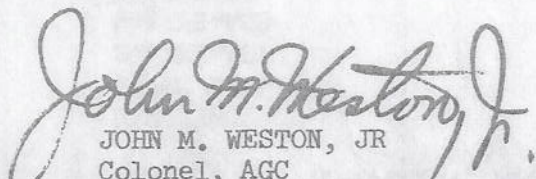
Reason: Private First Class Tafoya distinguished himself by gallantry in action involving conflict with an armed hostile force on 18 February 1968 while serving as machine gunner and driver with Battery D (Machine Gun), 71st Artillery, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Private Tafoya was a member of a crew called upon to support an Infantry assault in the village of Phouc Binh. During the engagement, Private Tafoya's squad was directed to accompany another armed vehicle in an attempt to suppress the hostile fire the Infantry elements were receiving from houses in the village. The devastating volume of firepower produced by the two crews inflicted numerous casualties on the enemy and was the primary factor in routing the enemy from their fortified positions, enabling the Infantry to occupy the contested area. Shortly thereafter, the two vehicles were given another mission in a different sector of the village. During this second engagement, Private Tafoya, with complete disregard for his personal safety, remained in an exposed position to assist the loading of the mounted weapons on his vehicle. After being painfully wounded, he steadfastly held his position and performed his job with admirable determination. Later in the battle, PFC Tafoya evacuated the seriously wounded to a position of safety while continually exposing himself to insurgent fire. Private First Class Tafoya's heroic actions in the face of a numerically superior force were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive Order 11046, 24 August 1962.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

PAUL E. HUNT
Colonel, GS
Acting Chief of Staff


JOHN M. WESTON, JR
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General