

THE MEDAL OF HONOR

Is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States.



It is generally presented by the President of the United States of America in the name of Congress. It is often called the "Congressional Medal of Honor."

THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

In 1957 America sent its first troops into Vietnam in a war that lasted 15 years. Over 2 million Americans were involved in this conflict. On March 29th 1973 we finally pulled our last troops out of Vietnam and the communist forces claimed a total victory. This war cost the lives of more than 58,000 Americans. North and South Vietnam lost well over 3 million soldiers and two million plus civilians. This was an unpopular war in America. And not until April 1979 was there any sort of tangible movement to recognize



the men and women who gave their lives in Vietnam. Finally Congress enacted legislation awarding three acres in the northwest corner of the National Mall as a site for the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. Today, more than 20 years after its dedication, the memorial remains the most visited in the nation's capital.



The Silver Valley Veterans Memorial site is located at Hill street and Railroad Avenue in Kellogg, Idaho. Frank will be honored in a greater way at this site.

For those who would like to contribute to the construction of this project, you may send your contribution to:

SILVER VALLEY VETERANS MEMORIAL
Post Office Box 428 • Kellogg, Idaho 83837

A SALUTE TO

First Lieutenant
FRANK S. REASONER



MEDAL OF HONOR



A presentation of the Silver Valley Veterans Memorial

A WORD ABOUT FRANK'S BACKGROUND

Frank was born in September 1937 in Spokane, Washington. In 1948 Frank's parents, Daisy and Jim Curry, moved to Kellogg, Idaho. Frank did well in high school and excelled in sports. In June 1955 at the age of 17, he graduated and enlisted in the Marine Corps. In Marine parlance Frank was known as a "Mustang", that is an enlisted man that's to become an officer. He received an appointment to West Point in 1958 and graduated from the Academy in June of 1962. He was welcomed back into the Marines by two major generals as a 2nd Lieutenant. This was the first time that a Marine enlisted man graduated from West Point and became a Marine officer. It was becoming clear that there was something outstanding about this young Idaho Marine.

Frank was married to Sally in December 1962. In 1964 Frank deployed to Hawaii and became a part of the 1st Marine Brigade and later moved to Okinawa for more training. Early in 1965 he joined the Third Reconnaissance Battalion in Vietnam. Frank was given a short break from Viet Nam to visit his wife Sally and see his infant son, Mickey in Hawaii. In an emotion-filled tender moment, he requested of Sally that if he didn't come back from the war and she remarried, would she please not change Mickey's last name. Sally graciously granted one of his last requests.

Frank's life and sacrificial action and death so impacted all of Third Recon Battalion that they named their area Camp Reasoner. Underneath the sign over the camp entrance was

the inscription, "Greater love hath no man". This is part of the immortal words of Jesus Christ recorded in the Gospels, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*" John 15:13.

What is it that makes a man like Reasoner tick? What motivates his inner life to enable him to lay down his life willingly for his comrades? Here are a few words from a fellow officer Udell Meyers who was with him the day before he died. "Knowing the grave danger these patrols faced, he could not order them to go unless he went with them, shared their fate and assisted in any way he could. He gave his last full measure of devotion in a life-giving effort to save the lives of his men. Such was the courage and commitment of Frank Reasoner, the personification of what it means to be Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful, to God and country" T.U. Meyers.

Sally later remarried and lives in N. Idaho. Mickey Reasoner is married and has a son and an adopted Vietnamese daughter. They live in Corvallis, Oregon. This outstanding young warrior became the first Marine officer to receive the Medal of Honor for his valiance in Vietnam.

THE CITATION

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as Commanding Officer, Company A, 3rd Reconnaissance, Battalion, 3rd Marine Division in action against hostile Viet Cong forces near Danang, Vietnam on July 12, 1965. The reconnaissance patrol led by First

Lieutenant Reasoner had deeply penetrated heavily controlled enemy territory when it came under extremely heavy fire from an estimated 50 to 100 Viet Cong insurgents. Accompanying the advance party and the point that consisted of five men, he immediately deployed his men for an assault after the Viet Cong had opened fire from numerous concealed positions. Boldly shouting encouragement, and virtually isolated from the main body, he organized a base of fire for an assault on the enemy positions. The slashing fury of the Viet Cong machine-gun and automatic weapons fire made it impossible for the main body to move forward. Repeatedly exposing himself to the devastating attack, he skillfully provided covering fire, killing at least two of the Viet Cong and effectively silencing an automatic weapons position in a valiant attempt to effect evacuation of a wounded man. As casualties began to mount, his radio operator was wounded and First Lieutenant Reasoner immediately moved to his side and tended his wounds. When the radio operator was hit a second time while attempting to reach a covered position, First Lieutenant Reasoner courageously running to his aid through the grazing machine-gun fire fell mortally wounded. His indomitable fighting spirit, valiant leadership and unflinching devotion to duty provided the inspiration that was to enable the patrol to complete its mission without further casualties. In the face of almost certain death he gallantly gave his life in the service of his country. His actions upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

— Lyndon B. Johnson
President of the United States