Awards and Decorations Branch

Lieutenant Colonel Fredrick L. Spaulding, USAR, Retired  
7702 White Dove Drive  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46256-1750

Dear Lieutenant Colonel Spaulding:

This letter is to inform you of the Army’s recent determination on a recommendation to award you the Medal of Honor for your actions in the Republic of Vietnam.

After careful consideration, the Secretary of the Army determined that you be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (copies of order and certificate enclosed). We have enclosed copies of all pertinent documentation in your Official Military Personnel File.

The medal set, certificate, citation, copies of permanent orders and DD Form 215 have been sent to Congressman Dan Burton, 2308 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-1405, telephone: (202) 225-2276. The medal has been mailed to Congressman Burton from U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM).

It is an honor to recognize your faithful and dedicated service to our Nation.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Ries  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
Assistant Chief, Awards and Decorations Branch

Enclosures
The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, 9 July 1918, (amended by act of 25 July 1963) has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to

CAPTAIN FREDRICK L. SPAULDING
UNITED STATES ARMY

For extraordinary heroism in action:

Captain Fredrick L. Spaulding distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as the Assistant Operating Officer, Headquarters Company, 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) during the withdraw of Fire Support Base Ripcord in the A Shau Valley, Republic of Vietnam on July 23, 1970. Captain Spaulding, voluntarily left Camp Evans to provide direct aid to the besieged Fire Support Base and to the two Companies awaiting extraction. He then took command of a Scout helicopter and joined the battle to locate, mark and direct fire from all available land and air assets against enemy positions. While taking intense fire, Captain Spaulding directly exposed himself to enemy fire while marking enemy positions with smoke grenades and coordinating with multiple fire teams resulting in accurate and devastating results. Once the grenades were exhausted, Captain Spaulding fired his sidearm at the enemy until his helicopter was rendered inoperable by the mounting enemy fire. Undaunted, Captain Spaulding and his pilot were able to maneuver the crippled aircraft back to Camp Evans. When the pilot refused to continue the mission, Captain Spaulding procured a second helicopter. This second aircraft was subsequently damaged by enemy fire, as was the third helicopter that Spaulding obtained. In a fourth helicopter, Captain Spaulding returned to the area of operations to continue the evacuation of the two besieged companies by continuing to draw fire upon himself and the aircraft. Captain Spaulding's daring acts of bravery and courage in the face of an overwhelming and determined enemy are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.
PERMANENT ORDER 159-19 8 June 2011

SPaulding, Fredrick L. 307-36-4584 CPT 1542 Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), APO San Francisco 96383

Announcement is made of the following award:

Award: Distinguished Service Cross
Date(s) or period of service: 23 July 1970
Authority: AR 600-8-22, paragraph 3-8
Reason: For extraordinary heroism in action
Format: 320

This Permanent Order supersedes any previously issued order that may have been published announcing this award.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

[Signature]

Michael A. Ries
LTC, LG
Assistant Chief, Awards and Decorations Branch

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

TO

CAPTAIN FREDRICK L. SPAULDING
UNIVERSITY ARMY

FOR

EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN ACTION

IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON 23 JULY 1970

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 20TH DAY OF MARCH 2012

JOHN W. McHOIG
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

CHIEF OF STAFF

Per Permanent Order 159-19, 8 June 2011
U.S. Army Reserve, Reserve Command
Fort Knox, Kentucky 40117-5000