



PRESS RELEASE

Vietnam Veterans of America

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 31, 2017

No. 17-32

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Vietnam Medic Jim McCloughan Presented with Medal of Honor

(Washington, DC) -- "Forty-eight years after former Spec/5 Jim McCloughan risked his life nine times to rescue, treat, and defend wounded and disoriented comrades, the former Army medic today is to receive the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for valor," said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America.

"Forty-eight hours of close-quarter combat during the battle of Nui Yon Hill left dozens of his comrades killed, wounded, or missing in action. 'Doc' McCloughan, then a 23-year-old PFC, suffered wounds three times from shrapnel and small arms fire. Yet he refused medical evacuation because his comrades needed him, and his fellow medic there had been killed," Rowan said.

"I know I speak on behalf of all members of Vietnam Veterans of America when I say that this retired high school coach and teacher from South Haven High School in Michigan represents the very best of those of us who served with honor in the Vietnam War. I know, too, that Jim has said he is no hero, that 'the real heroes are not here with us,' but in a nation hungry for heroes, Doc McCloughan is the real deal," Rowan said.

"Now he will add the MOH to the dozen decorations he'd previously been awarded," Rowan added, listing the Combat Medical Badge, two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, the U. S. Army Valorous Unit Citation, the National Defense Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and the M16 Expert Rifle Badge.

In 2009, his former platoon leader revived the effort to upgrade his Bronze Star with "V" device to a Distinguished Service Cross, and former Secretary of Defense Ash Carter saw fit to upgrade this to a Medal of Honor. Michigan's two Senators, Amy Klobuchar and Gary Peters, and Congressman Fred Upton added language to the National Defense Authorization Act that passed in December and paved the way for the MOH to be awarded to the former medic. The 71-year-old McCloughan is to be presented with the MOH by our 71-year-old President, Donald Trump.

