Acts of Heroism Earn DSC for Mr. Sauls

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POSTHUMOUS AWARDS ARE AMBIVALENT THINGS. PAINFULLY TRAGIC AND GLORIOUSLY HEROIC THEY REFLECT THE FINAL EFFORTS OF A COMRADE FALLEN IN BATTLE. CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SAULS HAS BEEN AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS, HIS NATION'S SECOND HIGHEST AWARD, POSTHUMOUSLY. EXCERPTS FROM THE CITATION DESCRIBING MR. SAULS' ACTIONS FOLLOW.

Chief Warrant Officer Robert N. Sauls Distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism during the period February 23, 1969, to March 1969, while serving as commander of the 254th Field Artillery Radar Detachment, Headquarters Battery, 8th Battalion, 26th Artillery, at Fire Base 12, near Ben Het. Throughout this period, fire Support Base 12 was under seige by North Vietnamese Forces. During the entire period, Warrant Officer Sauls continually esposed himself to enemy fire in an attempt to locate enemy firing positions. He not only directed the employment of his radar, which was credited with numerous confirmed plots, but also was credited with visually locating at least six enemy firing positions during this period and reporting them to friendly fire support elements.

On six occasions, he braved enemy fire in order to assist in the evacuation of casualties. Due to his actions, several enemy tank positions were located and fire was initiated which resulted in two tanks being destroyed. Warrant Officer Sauls repeatedly directed C-47 gunships to enemy positions.

On February 23 he was monitoring the radio and immediately realized the magnitude of the attack. He proceeded to the area receiving the severest attack to assist with the casualties and to be in a better position to direct the employment of his radar.

Initially he manned a defensive mortar-machine gun position. Several times when ammunition resupply was urgently needed, he volunteered to drive his jeep through heavy enemy fire to secure the ammunition. On march 6, during an extremely intense period of the attack, he saw that a friendly bunker had taken a direct hit. With complete disregard for his own safety, he repeatedly entered the burning bunker to remove wounded personnel, weapons and ammunition, even though he was knocked to the ground several times by the concussion of rounds which were impacting only a few feet from his position. On March 10, he was monitoring the Special Forces communications network between West Hill and Center Hill when he overheard that elements on West Hill had sustained heavy casualties.

Unhesitatingly he left the bunker and drove to West Hill to assist in the medical treatment and evacuation of the wounded. Upon arrival, he aided a seriously wounded sergeant to the safety of a nearby slit trench and began to treat his wounds.

Meanwhile, a Montagnard woman ran from a bunker crying that there were wounded near her. Despite the close proximity of the incoming rounds, he ran to his jeep, got his medical aid bag and went to the woman's aid.

He then moved to a severely wounded Vietnamese officer when a round struck about ten feet from him, inflicting serious wounds to his head, stomach and legs which subsequently caused his death.

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