



"America has provided me a special opportunity: the 'freedom' to choose my path in life. With that freedom comes enormous pride, and also a tremendous sense of debt. At the very core of my being, I understand America lives in me and I have an obligation to pay this debt during the course of my life by contributing even in the smallest ways, to the great good of this country and mankind."  
– Sgt. Peter C. Lemon



The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, March 3, 1863, has awarded in the name of The Congress the Medal of Honor to

**SERGEANT PETER C. LEMON  
UNITED STATES ARMY**

for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:

Sergeant Peter C. Lemon, (then Specialist Four), Company E, 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, distinguished himself on April 1, 1970 while serving as an assistant machine gunner during the defense of Fire Support Base Illingworth in Tay Ninh Province, Republic of Vietnam. When the base came under heavy enemy attack, Sergeant Lemon engaged a numerically superior enemy with machine gun and rifle fire from his defensive position until both weapons malfunctioned. He then used hand grenades to fend off the intensified enemy attack launched in his direction. After eliminating all but one of the enemy soldiers in the immediate vicinity, he pursued and disposed of the remaining soldier in hand-to-hand combat. Despite fragment wounds from an exploding grenade, Sergeant Lemon regained his position, carried a more seriously wounded comrade to an aid station, and, as he returned, was wounded a second time by enemy fire. Disregarding his personal injuries, he moved to his position through a hail of small arms and grenade fire. Sergeant Lemon immediately realized that the defensive sector was in danger of being overrun by the enemy and unhesitatingly assaulted the enemy soldiers by throwing hand grenades and engaging in hand-to-hand combat. He was wounded yet a third time, but his determined efforts successfully drove the enemy from the position. Securing an operable machine gun, Sergeant Lemon stood atop an embankment fully exposed to enemy fire, and placed effective fire upon the enemy until he collapsed from his multiple wounds and exhaustion. After regaining consciousness at the aid station, he refused medical evacuation until his more seriously wounded comrades had been evacuated. Sergeant Lemon's conspicuous gallantry and extraordinary heroism, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

*Richard Nixon*