



THE PRESIDENT

welcomes you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

on the occasion of the presentation of the

MEDAL OF HONOR

(POSTHUMOUSLY)

to

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS

ROSS A. MCGINNIS

UNITED STATES ARMY



Monday, June 2, 2008

CITATION

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

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS
ROSS A. MCGINNIS

UNITED STATES ARMY

*For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life
above and beyond the call of duty:*

Private First Class Ross A. McGinnis distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving as an M2 .50-caliber Machine Gunner, 1st Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, in connection with combat operations against an armed enemy in Adhamiyah, Northeast Baghdad, Iraq, on 4 December 2006. That afternoon his platoon was conducting combat control operations in an effort to reduce and control sectarian violence in the area. While Private McGinnis was manning the M2 .50-caliber Machine Gun, a fragmentation grenade thrown by an insurgent fell through the gunner's hatch into his vehicle. Reacting quickly, he yelled "grenade," allowing all four members of his crew to prepare for the grenade's blast. Then, rather than leaping from the gunner's hatch to safety, Private McGinnis made the courageous decision to protect his crew. In a selfless act of bravery, in which he was mortally wounded, Private McGinnis covered the live grenade, pinning it between his body and the vehicle and absorbing most of the explosion. Private McGinnis' gallant action directly saved four men from certain serious injury or death. Private First Class McGinnis' extraordinary heroism and selflessness at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

PROGRAM

Invocation

Chaplain (MG) Douglas L. Carver

Chief of Chaplains, U. S. Army

Remarks by

The President

Presentation of the

MEDAL OF HONOR

Benediction

Chaplain (MG) Douglas L. Carver

Chief of Chaplains, U. S. Army



CRITERIA FOR AWARD

The Medal of Honor is awarded by the President in the name of Congress to a person who, while a member of the Armed Forces, distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States, while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The deed performed must have been one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life. Incontestable proof of the performance of service is exacted and each recommendation for award of this decoration is considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

