



The President of the UNITED STATES takes pleasure in presenting the BRONZE STAR MEDAL To
Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class
James D. Garoutte
United States Navy

For service set forth in the following
CITATION:

For heroic achievement in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of South Vietnam while serving with Company B, 1ST Battalion, 9TH Marine Regiment, 3RD Marine Division. On 20 September, 1968, the company was conducting a search and destroy operation in I Corp outside the Khe Sanh firebase, Republic of South Vietnam, when Hospital Corpsman 3RD Class Garoutte, who was positioned in the middle of the tactical column, immediately, and without hesitation or regard for his own safety moved to the point position to render medical aid and comfort to a wounded marine as the company came under intense .50 caliber machine gun and small arms fire from a well-concealed enemy force. Disregarding his own safety, HM3 Garoutte maneuvered himself to continue rendering medical aid to his fallen marine pulling him out of the line of fire to a more safe position. As the enemy attack continued, HM3 Garoutte continued moving from wounded marine to wounded marine to provide medical aid and comfort. Crawling back through the intense enemy fire HM3 Garoutte reached a marine that was separated from the main body of the platoon column. Observing five North Vietnamese soldiers moving toward his position, HM3 Garoutte unhesitatingly and with total disregard for his own safety shielded his patient, while incurring intense small arms fire and began returning fire on them with his side arm to protect his wounded marine. When out of ammunition, he took the weapon of his wounded patient and continued firing and was instrumental in accounting for three enemy soldiers confirmed killed. HM3 Garoutte incurred wounds from a detonated grenade that landed 20 feet from his position while shielding his wounded Marine from the explosion. Disregarding his own wounds, HM3 Garoutte continued exposing himself again and again to enemy fire while providing medical aid and comfort to his marine platoon. His continuous care and treatment of the wounds received by the Marines in Company B was instrumental in the saving of all lives until medical evacuation could be made. Hospital Corpsman 3RD Class Garoutte's courageous actions, disregard for his own life, bold initiative, and total dedication to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

The Combat V Distinguishing Device is authorized.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard M. Nixon".

President of the United States