**Colonel Paris Davis U.S. Army (Ret)**

U.S. ARMY WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden presented the Medal of Honor to Colonel Paris Davis U.S. Army (Ret) at ceremony at the White House Friday March 3 for his acts of bravery as a commander during the Vietnam War.

Davis commanded American Special Forces as well as an inexperienced South Vietnamese company against a large North Vietnamese force June 17-18, 1965. His tactical leadership allowed the company to gain an advantage and surprise the enemy.

Davis was wounded in the initial assault, but he continued to push forward, killing several enemy soldiers.

Following a counterattack from the North Vietnamese and facing intense gun fire, Davis led a small group of Soldiers as they destroyed locations defended by the enemy.

Davis then regrouped with his company and ordered air strikes on the enemy. The North Vietnamese, however, launched another attack with increased numbers. Davis was again wounded but managed to hold off the enemy.

Seeing two of his soldiers were seriously injured, Davis disregarded his own safety and went to save them. He was shot in the leg as he pulled the first one to safety.

Davis went back to get the second soldier and drew heavy enemy fire. He crawled 150 yards and was hit by grenade fragments, causing multiple wounds. He didn't let that stop him and was able to get the soldier to safety.

After rescuing both men, Davis directed the helicopter extraction of the wounded but refused it for himself. He continued to fight the enemy until his entire company made it out safely. He then remained on the battlefield to coordinate the final aerial and artillery attacks, ensuring victory.

Then-Capt. Davis was awarded a Silver Star on Dec. 15, 1965. Davis received the award for his actions during a battle in Bong Son, Republic of Vietnam, June 17-18, 1965 for saving the lives of multiple soldiers during the battle and leading his company to victory over a much larger enemy force.

Now, after nearly six decades, Davis received the nation’s highest award for military valor.

“When you’re fighting, you’re not thinking about this moment,” Davis said. “You’re just trying to get through that moment.”

That moment lasted nearly 19 hours and stretched over two days in mid-June 1965.