

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, posthumously, to

FIRST LIEUTENANT ROBERT G. SCHMITT, USA

for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an armed enemy:

First Lieutenant Robert G. Schmitt, Infantry, United States Army, a member of Company M, 31st Infantry Regiment, distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United Nations near the Chosin Reservoir, Korea, on 1 December 1950. The regiment was assigned the mission of effecting a withdrawal and attempting a juncture with the 1st Marine Division at Hagaru-ri. Following assembly of a motor convoy with Company M committed to provide security for the right flank, Lieutenant Schmitt, having sustained a severe leg injury in a previous encounter, was ordered to ride in a vehicle with other wounded. After proceeding several miles the column was halted by a road block, and devastating fire rained down from strongly-fortified positions emplaced on three surrounding hills. With mounting casualties and fast dwindling ammunition, the morale of the men was badly shaken, and Lieutenant Schmitt, suffering greatly from his wound, voluntarily left his transportation to rally, organize and lead an assault against the enemy positions. Giving his carbine to an unarmed man, improvising a stick for a crutch, he struggled forward, and the men, rising to the challenge of their valiant leader, followed him in a determined attack against the fanatical foe. Progressing with extreme difficulty on his makeshift crutch, he continued to lead the attack through withering fire until he was struck by a machine gun bullet and fell mortally wounded. Refusing medical treatment, he urged the men to press the assault and, inspired by his incredible display of valor, his resolute soldiers charged with such ferocity that hostile positions were overrun and the enemy routed from the hill. Lieutenant Schmitt's intrepid actions resulted in the elimination of the road block, enabling the convoy to resume its advance, and his unflinching courage and consummate devotion to duty reflect lasting glory on himself and are in keeping with the noble traditions of the military service.

