

..... PARTING SHOT



Joe Gromelski/The VVA Veteran

One of a Kind

Vietnam War Medal of Honor Recipient Paris Davis received the nation’s highest award for courage under fire following his heroism and selflessness during two harrowing days of combat operations near Bong Song during his second Vietnam War tour with the 5th Special Forces Group in 1965.

On June 17, then Capt. Davis, an advisor to the ARVN 883rd Regional Force Company, helped lead that unit during a nighttime raid of a Viet Cong regional headquarters. After that successful operation, the company was ambushed and Davis took charge during the ensuing hours-long fight, which included hand-to-hand combat. While saving the lives of at least three soldiers under intense fire, he was severely wounded.

“Despite two painful wounds,” his MOH Citation notes, Davis

repeatedly “refused medical evacuation, remained with the troops, fought bravely, and provided pivotal leadership and inspiration to the Regional Force Company as they repelled several Viet Cong assaults on their position.”

He did not leave “the battlefield himself until after all friendly forces were recovered or medically evacuated.”

Col. Davis, a 2019 inductee into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame, gave the Keynote speech at the April 24 Vietnam Veterans of America Remembrance and Honor wreath-laying ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. (see p. 14). He is pictured in the photo above greeting well-wishers after the ceremony. ♦