

## **Allen J. Lynch, Medal of Honor Recipient**

Allen Lynch started his career serving his fellow veterans first with the Department of Veteran Affairs where he served as a Veterans Benefits Counselor and then as Chief Ambulatory Care at then VA Hospital North Chicago now called the Lovell Federal Medical Center. He then served as the Executive Director of the Illinois Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. He left VVLP to serve as the Chief Veterans Rights Bureau Illinois Atty. Gen.'s office where he served under four Illinois Attorney Generals. Since retiring from the Illinois Attorney General's office in 2005 Allen served as a volunteer service officer with Vietnam Veterans of America until November 2104 and he is now the Assistant Superintendent of the Veterans Assistance Commission of Lake County Illinois.

Allen served on active duty with the US Army in Germany and Vietnam. While in Vietnam Allen served with Company D, 1st Battalion of the 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) from 31 May 1967 until 1 June 1968. He was "in-country" for six months when the action took place that would result in his receiving the Medal of Honor. The recognition of his conspicuous gallantry and selfless service to others on that day is the catalyst for a life of service to others. Allen completed his 21 years of service in both the Army reserve program and the Illinois National Guard where he retired in 1994.

Allen's "selfless service to others" continues. Allen is one of the founding members of the **Allen J. Lynch Medal of Honor Veterans Foundation**. The Foundation's purpose is to provide financial assistance to veterans and their immediate families. Needy Veterans to whom support is provided receive one time grant. In January 2015 the Foundation became a program under Operation Support Our Troops America a 501c3 organization with a 5-star rating by Charity Navigator. A majority of the Program Committee must approve each request for assistance after the veteran has been vetted, usually by another veterans' service organization i.e. a VAC, Volunteers of America or other such organizations.

He and his wife, Susan, have three children and are now blessed with 6 grandchildren.

### Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. SGT Lynch (then Sp4) distinguished himself while serving as a radiotelephone operator with Company D. While serving in the forward element on an operation near the village of My An, his unit became heavily engaged with a numerically superior enemy force. Quickly and accurately assessing the situation, SGT Lynch provided his commander with information which subsequently proved essential to the unit's successful actions. Observing three wounded comrades lying exposed to enemy fire, SGT Lynch dashed across 50 meters of open ground through a withering hail of enemy fire to administer aid. Reconnoitering a nearby trench for a covered position to protect the wounded from intense hostile fire, he killed two enemy soldiers at point blank range. With the trench cleared, he unhesitatingly returned to the fire-swept area three

times to carry the wounded men to safety. When his company was forced to withdraw by the superior firepower of the enemy, SGT Lynch remained to aid his comrades at the risk of his life rather than abandon them. Alone, he defended his isolated position for two hours against the advancing enemy. Using only his rifle and a grenade, he stopped them just short of his trench, killing five. Again, disregarding his safety in the face of withering hostile fire, he crossed 70 meters of exposed terrain five times to carry his wounded comrades to a more secure area. Once he had assured their comfort and safety, SGT Lynch located the counterattacking friendly company to assist in directing the attack and evacuating the three casualties. His gallantry at the risk of his life is in the highest traditions of the military service. SGT Lynch has reflected great credit on himself, the 12th Cavalry and the U.S. Army.

Near My An (2), Binh Dinh province, Republic of Vietnam, 15 December 1967.