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News Release

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VA recognizes Vietnam Veteran with first Medal of Honor Medallion during ceremony at Mississippi cemetery

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnished the first Medal of Honor (MOH) Medallion for the private headstone of [Pfc. Milton L. Olive III](#), a decorated Vietnam-era war hero, during a ceremony Nov. 1 at West Grove Cemetery in Lexington, Mississippi.

With the passage of [Public Law 114-315](#) on Dec. 16, 2016, Congress authorized VA's National Cemetery Administration (NCA) to issue, upon request, a medallion, headstone or marker signifying a Veteran as an MOH recipient who served on or after April 6, 1917, and is buried in a private cemetery with a private headstone or marker.

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie saluted Olive for his selfless bravery during a battle in the Vietnam conflict.

"Private First Class Olive was posthumously awarded a Medal of Honor for his service during the Vietnam War after he heroically used his body to cover a grenade to save the life of his fellow soldiers," Wilkie said. "The Medal of Honor Medallion illustrates VA's commitment to ensuring all who see this symbol will know of the courageous sacrifice of our nation's distinguished service members."

For information on applying for the MOH Medallion, [visit this link](#). Information on all types of VA headstones, markers and medallions can be [found at this link](#)

VA operates 136 national cemeteries and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico. More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA's national cemeteries. VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve and maintain 111 Veterans cemeteries in 48 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam, and Saipan. For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service.

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