



MSG Benjamin Franklin Wilson
Class 56-43

The President of the United States of America, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Master Sergeant Benjamin F. Wilson, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with Company I, 3d Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. Master Sergeant Wilson distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action against enemy aggressor forces in the vicinity of Nodong-ni, Korea, on 9 June 1951. On that date, Sergeant Wilson's company was advancing against heavily fortified enemy hill positions when a sudden and heavy volume of small-arms and automatic-weapons fire forced the men to seek cover. Sergeant Wilson, realizing the need for immediate and aggressive action so that the men could extricate themselves from their untenable positions, charged forward against the enemy emplacements single-handedly, firing his rifle rapidly and pitching grenades. Completely exposed to the concentrated fire of the enemy, he nevertheless succeeded in killing four of the enemy and in neutralizing a hostile bunker. His heroic actions so inspired his men that they renewed their assault and secured the objective. Immediately, the enemy launched a fierce counterattack against the newly gained positions and Sergeant Wilson once more left his position and engaged them at extremely close range. He personally killed five of the attacking enemy and laid down such a devastating volume of fire that the remainder were forced to withdraw after suffering heavy losses.

General Orders: Headquarters, Eighth U.S. Army, Korea: General Orders No. 694 (September 12, 1951)

NOTE: Benjamin Franklin Wilson enlisted in the Army on January 9, 1940 and was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He applied for OCS and entered Field Artillery OCS Class 56-43 on December 24, 1942. He was commissioned a Field Artillery 2LT on March 18, 1943, served stateside during WW II and left the service on December 24, 1945. He enlisted as a private on September 4, 1946 and quickly rose to the rank of MSG. Serving with the 7th Infantry Division in Korea, he was awarded the Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross for separate heroic actions just days apart during June 1951 and was soon commissioned an Infantry LT. The Medal of Honor was presented to him by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on September 7, 1954. He retired as a MAJ on October 31, 1960.