



FIRST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM E. McDONALD

CLASS 8-52

First Lieutenant McDonald was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in Korea.

First Lieutenant McDonald distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in action, while serving as a member of an artillery battery on July 9, 1953 in the vicinity of Taegwanni, Korea. On that morning, Lieutenant McDonald was in the fire direction center of a battery under intense enemy fire, when a gun position was hit by an enemy artillery shell. Despite the fierce fire raging about the destroyed bunker, Lieutenant McDonald immediately rushed to the position and began to dig out wounded personnel who were trapped under the debris. Fully realizing that the fire would undoubtedly set off an explosion in the ammunition pit, Lieutenant McDonald continued in his mission and succeeded in extricating three of the trapped men. When fuzes in close proximity to the ammunition began to burn and detonation was imminent, Lieutenant McDonald was warned to leave the position. With courageous disregard for his personal safety, he continued his efforts to rescue the remaining personnel until he was killed in the ensuing explosion.

First Lieutenant McDonald's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.