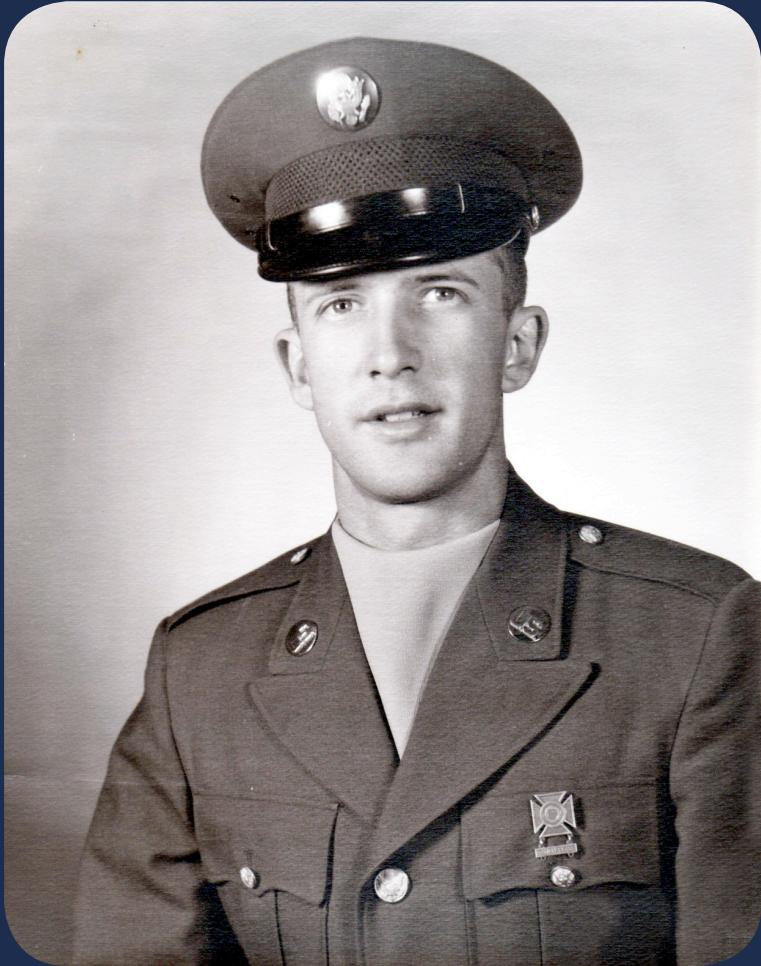


**SGT. MANUEL E. MESA, JR.
BELEN JESUIT '63**



**VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL:
PANEL 18E, ROW 101**

SERGEANT MANUEL E. MESA, JR.

Belen Jesuit '63 | United States Army | Theater: Republic of Vietnam

KIA: 27 April 1967 | Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Born in Havana, Cuba, 17 May 1945. Parents: Manuel and Sara Mesa. Siblings: sisters Isabel and Sara, and brother Reverend Jose Luis Mesa Guzman, S.J.

Manuel studied at the Colegio de Belen in Havana from third grade (1953) until 1960, when his parents left Cuba. In Miami he attended Kinloch Park Junior High and graduated from Coral Gables High School.

In 1965 he entered the U.S. Army and was sent to Vietnam in 1966. He distinguished himself and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sgt. Mesa was killed in combat on 27 April 1967 at the age of twenty-two. His remains are buried in Gainesville, Florida.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Panel 18E, Row 101

Silver Star Citation: The Silver Star is awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.



SERGEANT MANUEL E. MESA, JR. '63

SILVER STAR CITATION

The Silver Star is awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.



Sergeant Mesa distinguished himself by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force on 27 April 1967 while assigned to Company E, 3d Battalion, 7th Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade (Separate) (Light) in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Sergeant Mesa was serving as a team leader with his platoon which was conducting a search and destroy operation near the village of Tan Nuit. Approaching a canal surrounded by thick vegetation, the unit suddenly came under intense enemy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force. The platoon suffered immediate casualties and its left flank was pinned down by the machinegun fire of a reinforced Viet Cong bunker. Completely disregarding his own safety, Sergeant Mesa left his position in the center of the platoon and ran through intense enemy fire to the beleaguered left flank. From this location, armed only with his individual weapon, he heroically began to crawl toward the enemy bunker, intent on neutralizing the threat to his comrades. Without regard to the Viet Cong bullets striking the ground around him, he fearlessly continued his efforts. Approaching a point less than fifteen meters from his objective, he was mortally wounded by the intense enemy fire. Sergeant Mesa's unwavering courage and concern for the welfare of his men were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

SERGEANT MANUEL E. MESA, JR. '63



HEADQUARTERS
II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96266

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 981

NO RECORD FOUND IN
RECORDS BRANCH ASPROSEN 15 June 1967

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

MESA, MANUEL E JR US53405234 SERGEANT E5 United States Army COMPANY E
3D BATTALION 7TH INFANTRY 199TH INFANTRY BRIGADE (SEPARATE)(LIGHT) APO
96279

Awarded: Silver Star (Posthumously)

Date action: 27 April 1967

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: Sergeant Mesa distinguished himself by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force on 27 April 1967 while assigned to Company E, 3d Battalion, 7th Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade (Separate)(Light) in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date, Sergeant Mesa was serving as a team leader with his platoon which was conducting a search and destroy operation near the village of Tan Nui. Approaching a canal surrounded by thick vegetation, the unit suddenly came under intense enemy small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force. The platoon suffered immediate casualties and its left flank was pinned down by the machinegun fire of a reinforced Viet Cong bunker. Completely disregarding his own safety, Sergeant Mesa left his position in the center of the platoon and ran through intense enemy fire to the beleaguered left flank. From this location, armed only with his individual weapon, he heroically began to crawl toward the enemy bunker, intent on neutralizing the threat to his comrades. Without regard to the Viet Cong bullets striking the ground around him, he fearlessly continued his efforts. Approaching a point less than fifteen meters from his objective, he was mortally wounded by the intense enemy fire. Sergeant Mesa's unwavering courage and concern for the welfare of his men were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Authority: By direction of the President, as established by the Act of Congress, 9 July 1918 and USARV Message 16695, 1 July 1966.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:



LEONARD S. LEE
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

ROBERT C. FORBES
Brigadier General, GS
Chief of Staff