

SP/4 GUENTHER TO BE AWARDED  
SILVER STAR MEDAL

SP/4 David J. Guenther, son of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Guenther of Second St. in Westland, is recommended for the "SILVER STAR" for his gallantry in action.

SP/4 David J. Guenther distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions while serving as rifleman with first platoon, Co D, 1st Bn, 12th Cav, 1st Air Cav Div (AM), during a protective reaction mission near Fire Support Base Evans in Cambodia. At approximately 0900 hours on the morning of 19 May 70 the company had just moved out from their night defensive position with first platoon when he spotted several enemy soldiers to his direct front. One enemy machinegun position was prepared to open fire within seconds. SP4 Guenther immediately engaged the enemy who were a part of a company size U-shaped ambush. His initial burst of effective and accurate fire caught the enemy by surprise killing two enemy in the machinegun nest and enabling the point platoon to drop to the ground before the first burst of enemy fire. As the platoon was being deployed, he remained standing in his exposed position, firing on the enemy with deadly results. During the critical first minutes of the firefight he undoubtedly saved the lives of many men by his heroic action. Only when they had assumed favorable positions did he abandon his position to join the rest of his element.

As the firefight continued he was constantly serving as an example for his fellow soldiers. In the face of a superior enemy force and fire power he maneuvered himself to various positions, always being where he was most needed. His example encouraged his pinned-down and out-numbered comrades to inflict many more enemy casualties, while suffering only one friendly KIA. His personal courage and valor was the deciding factor in the favorable outcome of what might have been a disaster. His actions stand in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army. (As reported by 1LT Lafe Z. Smith, Infantry)

SP/4 Guenther is to be greeted on his return home from Viet Nam in January by his family: Mom & Dad. Brothers: Randy, Scott, Jim, Mike, Kevin. Sisters: Ellen, & Karen. Also to greet him will be his relatives and his future wife, Thelma Fleis.