

# United States Marine Corps



Let it be known that on this First Day of May 1969, by order of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the **Bronze Star Medal** with **Combat V** is hereby awarded to Staff Sergeant Frank J. Visconi 2122007 for actions described in the below citation.

## Citation

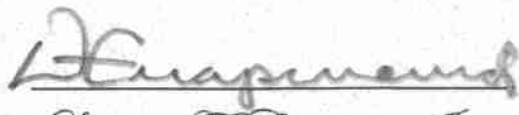
While serving as a Supply Man with Headquarters Battalion, 3<sup>d</sup> Marine Division, United States Marine Corps in Chu Lai Vietnam during the period from 8 March 1965 to 10 April 1966, then Private First Class (Pfc.) Frank J. Visconi distinguished himself by voluntarily participating in a number of search and destroy missions in and around the Chu Lai Air Base. On several occasions throughout his thirteen month tour in South Vietnam, Pfc. Visconi, after working in his primary Military Occupational Specialty during the day, volunteered for overnight duty to guard the perimeter of the Air Base which was constantly being breeched by enemy Vietcong insurgents attempting to destroy aircraft and ammunition supplies on and around the airfield. In addition, Pfc. Visconi volunteered for helicopter insertion, "search and destroy" missions into areas in and around the Chu Lai vicinity where military intelligence reported sightings of groups of enemy Vietcong forces.

Again, during the period of 18 - 19 August 1965, Pfc. Visconi, knowingly placed himself in dangerous situations when he volunteered to participate in ground combat activities during Operation Starlite in the vicinity of the Van Tuong peninsula near Chu Lai, Vietnam. Over a two day period of fierce combat action between U.S. Marines and enemy North Vietnamese Army Regular forces, Pfc. Visconi volunteered to be relieved of his duties as a supply man in the Headquarters compound at the Chu Lai base camp, and join with Marine forces conducting combat operations. On no less than seven occasions, Pfc. Visconi voluntarily joined the crew of evacuation helicopters and flew into the middle of intense action to assist in evacuating dead and wounded fellow Marines. On two of those occasions, it became necessary for Pfc. Visconi to take up the position as door gunner on the helicopter after the Marine manning the weapon was mortally wounded. Pfc. Visconi continued to concentrate heavy machine gun fire into the perimeter of the evacuation area, holding the NVA at bay while the wounded Americans were lifted to safety.

By his courageous efforts in numerous situations of potential self sacrifice on behalf of his comrades, Pfc. Visconi served as an inspiration to all who observed him, and reflected the highest credit upon the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

This award presented on 02 May 1969 at the Federal Building Induction Center, Detroit, Michigan.

  
J. A. Polidori  
Lt Col., USMC Res.

  
Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

# United States Marine Corps



Let it be known that on this First Day of May 1969, by order of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the **Purple Heart Medal** is hereby awarded to Staff Sergeant Frank J. Visconi 2122007 for actions described in the below citation.

## Citation

While serving as a Supply Man with Headquarters Battalion, 3<sup>d</sup> Marine Division, United States Marine Corps in Chu Lai Vietnam during the period from 8 March 1965 to April 10 April 1966 then Private First Class (Pfc.) Frank J. Visconi distinguished himself by voluntarily participating in a number of search and destroy missions in and around the Chu Lai Air Base. On several occasions during his thirteen month tour in South Vietnam, Pfc. Visconi volunteered for helicopter insertion, "search and destroy" missions in and around the Chu Lai vicinity where military intelligence reported sightings of groups of enemy Vietcong forces.

On one particular mission on 18 June 1965, Pfc. Visconi, as a member of a squad of Marines inserted by helicopter into an area where military intelligence reported the sighting of a small band of enemy Vietcong moving in single file formation concealed by heavy elephant grass toward the Chu Lai Airfield, the squad was engaged by small arms fire immediately upon landing. The squad was ordered to scatter and take cover in the surrounding tall grass. When Pfc.

*Visconi was well within the area of cover, he dropped to his knees to escape the line of fire. In doing so, his right knee was pierced by what was later observed to be a concealed "punji trap". One of the several punji "sticks" strategically placed in the area embedded itself approximately one inch into Pfc. Visconi's upper right leg, just below the knee. Pfc. Visconi immediately removed the object, wrapping it himself with a portion of his utility uniform shirt sleeve in order to stop the bleeding without calling for a Corpsman and giving away his position. Following a short engagement and exchange of rifle fire, the enemy Vietcong fled into the surrounding jungle in a direction away from the Airfield. The squad was ordered to reassemble, calling for an extraction. While on the helicopter returning to the Command Post, Pfc. Visconi received treatment for his wounds by the Corpsman who had accompanied the squad on the maneuver.*

*For wounds received in hostile territory during engagement with enemy forces, Pfc. Visconi was recommended for the Purple Heart.*

*This award presented on 02 May 1969 at the Federal Building Induction Center, Detroit, Michigan.*

*J. A. Polidori*  
*J. A. Polidori*  
*Lt Col., USMC Res.*

*L. F. Chapman, Jr.*  
*Leonard F. Chapman, Jr.*  
*Commandant of the Marine Corps*