

pine Islands. A heavily fortified enemy position consisting of pillboxes and supporting trenches held up the advance of his company. His platoon was ordered to outflank and neutralize the strong point. Voluntarily moving well out in front of his group, Private Thorson came upon an enemy fire trench defended by several hostile riflemen and, disregarding the intense fire directed at him, attacked single-handed. He was seriously wounded and fell about 6 yards from the trench. Just as the remaining 20 members of the platoon reached him, one of the enemy threw a grenade into their midst. Shouting a warning and making a final effort, Private Thorson rolled onto the grenade and smothered the explosion with his body. He was instantly killed, but his magnificent courage and supreme self-sacrifice prevented injury and possible death of his comrades.

A Red Cross Club in Korea has been dedicated to John F. Thorson, Jr., and an Army Transport carries his name.

Korean Conflict

Edwards, Junior D.

Sergeant First Class, Company E, 23rd Infantry Regiment; near Changbong-ni, Korea; January 2, 1951; Iowa residence: Indianola.

Citation: Sergeant First Class Junior D. Edwards distinguished himself . . . in action against the enemy near Changbong-ni, Korea. When his platoon, while assisting in the defense of a strategic hill, was forced out of its position and came under vicious raking fire from an enemy machine-gun set up on adjacent high ground, Sergeant Edwards individually charged the hostile emplacement, throwing grenades as he advanced. The enemy withdrew but returned to deliver devastating fire when he had ex-