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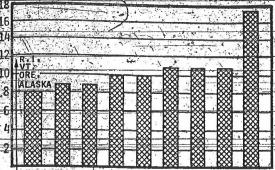
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NEBR. S.DAK. IA KAN. COLO. MO. N.DAK.HAWATI Vietnam fatality death rate per state computed from latest Pentagon figures on state-by-state deaths (through March, 1968) and on latest census estimates available (1966). Figures approx.

Nebraska Men Lead Medal of Honor List

By ED ICENOGLE

If heroism can be reflected in statistics, Nebraska servicemen have distinguished themselves.

While the state has not contributed Vietnam war fatalities in numbers proportionate to population, now holds a Nebraska numerical advantage over the other states in producing winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award.

· The state's two homegrown honorees of the Vietnam conflict, one from Omaha and one from Lincoln, put Nebraska among the 21 Nebraska among the 21 states to claim Medal of Honor winners.

Nebraska on Top

Moreover, when per capita winners are computed from Department of Defense figures, Nebraska emerges on top.

The two honorees make Nebraska's ratio one Medal winner to every 743,000 people, as compared to secondplace Iowa with one for every 918,000 people and California, last in the list of states with one honoree for 9,170,000 of the every populace.

But when it comes to casualties, Nebraska, fortunately, is "behind" all but four of the states.

149 Fatalities

Proportionately, since the outbreak of large-scale military involvement in 1962, Nebraska fatalities total 149, according to the Pentagon's latest available figures on combat and non-combat death tolls, in Vietnam. The death for approximately every 10,000 citizens.

The only states with fewer fatalities are Vermont, Rhode Island, Alaska and Oregon. They have recorded Denney's account in the

death rate of servicemen in Vietnam may be partly due to the smaller percentage of men eligible for service than in other states.

This, of course, makes the Medal of Honor winners even more remarkable.

3 Lincoln Residents

Although two Medal winners have birthplaces listed in Nebraska, three of the 33 winners from the Vietnam war have been Lincoln residents.

One native Nebraskan and the lone Lincoln-born winner — is S.Sgt. Charles Hagemeister, 21, who was recently honored by Lincoln civic organizations for his heroic deeds in action.

The other native Nebraskan, Omaha-born Army 2nd Lt. Robert J. Hibbs, was awarded posthumously medal November, 1966. Lt. Hibbs attended Lincoln Southeast High School from 1954 to

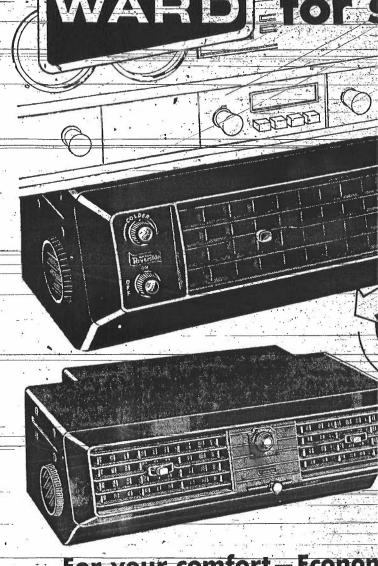
Air Force Capt. Gerald O. Young, who was born in Chicago, Ill., lived in Lincoln as a child from 1930 to 1933 with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Orren V. Young, who were born in the Capital City.

Recognized in Speech

Rep. Robert V. Denney, R-Neb., recognized the three young men in a speech in Congress June 6.

These Lincolnites — Hagemeister, Young and Hibbs - have name plates state has recorded, then, one in the Pentagon's new Hall death for approximately of Heroes," Denney said. "They represented their state and served their country admirably."

Hagemeister, according to one Vietnam death for every Congressional Record, was



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fatalities are Vermont, Rhode Island, Alaska and Oregon. They have recorded one Vietnam death for every

11,000 people.

At the other end of the scale, the proportion for Hawaii is one for each 5.000 persons and for New Hampshire, Oklahoma, West Virginia, New Mexico and Alabama, one for every 6.000.

But important in this statistical comparison is the fact that the number of service-age young men in each state can vary greatly in proportion to the state's population. Therefore, one reason for Nebraska's low

Study Will Continue

Industrial Potential .

The State Economic Development Advisory Committee agreed further work on a consultant's industrial potential study for Nebraska would be done by the Department of Economic Development

Corplan Associates, a Chicago-based consulting firm, several months ago completed a \$28.500 study pinpointing the types of industries that could be attracted to and developed in the state.

The firm had offered to do other phases of the study, but the committee voted to have the department do this work.

In other action, the committee was advised that industrial development bonds up to \$1 million may be issued with tax-free status.

Several months ago, the Treasury Department had removed the tax-exempt status on industrial development bonds issued by the states, but a rider on the recently passed federal surtax bill exempts up to \$1 million industrial development bonds issued to provide facilities and equipment for any one company.

The committee said the federal legislation would help the state's industrial development but instructed State Economic Development Director James, Morrie to seep the issue a in

ALLUGHECE IN EPUCCO

Rep. Robert V. Denney, R-Neb., recognized the three young men in a speech in Congress June 6.

"These Lincolnites -Hagemeister, Young and Hibbs — have name plates in the Pentagon's new Hall of Heroes," Denney said. "They represented their state and served their country admirably."

Hagemeister, according to Denney's account in the Congressional Record, was recommended for the Medal of Honor for six hours of continuous heroism in a South Vietnam coastal plain

fight. "Army officials estimated, the medic killed six or seven enemy soldiers, using a .45caliber pistol. an M-16 rifle, and an M-79 grenade launcher, which he picked up off the battlefield," Denney said. "He exposed himself to enemy fire repeatedly to treat and evacuate the wounded of his 1st Air Cavalry Division platoon."

Hagemeister has also been awarded the Silver Star for action in another battle, the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Medical Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnaml Campaign Medal. He is also a graduate of Lincoln Southeast High School."

Heroism Told

Young was commander of a helicopter rescue unit: downed in November, 1967. He pulled himself and a wounded companion from the burning helicopter, evaded the enemy and observed them setting up automatic, weapons as a trap around the downed craft.

"For more than 17 hours, despite severe pain, Young refused offers of help until it was safe for rescuers to land in the sea." Denney noted in the Congressional Record.

Lt. Hibbs' heroics occurred in March, 1966. While leading: 14 members of a platoon on a secret mission in Vietnam. he and his men were sur-Lt. Hibbs directed the placement of mines that killed more than 100 of the nemy.

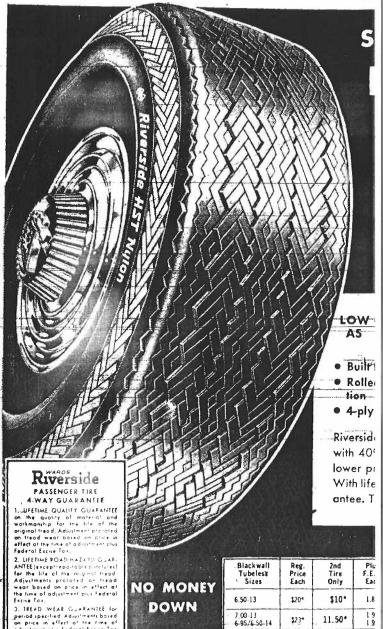
Wounded twice, Lt. Hibbs held off the enemy while the other members of the platoon escaped. He then crawled forward and pulled wounded comrade to safety.

Then, while smashing a secret night gunsight to keep it from enemy hands, Lt Hibbs was killed by Cong fire

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