

Haralson County native son, Ray McKibben left high school to enter the service. He had once told his dad that he would gladly give his life if would mean ending the war in Viet Nam. Those words became a self for filling prophecy. In 1968 Sergeant Ray McKibben was killed in action serving his country. His mother was presented his Medal of Honor from President Richard Nixon.

Near Song Mao, Republic of Vietnam-Sergeant McKibben was operating in enemy territory. He was serving as a team leader of the point element on a reconnaissance mission. The lead element suddenly came under heavy automatic weapons fire forcing the patrol to take cover. Sgt McKibben appraised the situation and without regard for his safety, charged through the bamboo and heavy brush to the fortified position. He killed the enemy gunner, secured the weapon and directed his patrol element forward.

As the patrol was moving out, he noticed enemy movement to the flank of the patrol. Fire support from helicopter gunships was requested and the area was effectively neutralized. The patrol again continued its mission and as the lead element rounded the bend of a river it came under heavy automatic weapons fire from camouflaged bunkers. As Sgt. McKibben was deploying his men to covered positions, he observed one of his men fall wounded. Although bullets were hitting all around the wounded man, Sgt. McKibben, with complete disregard for his safety, sprang to his comrade's side and under heavy enemy fire pulled him to safety behind the cover of a rock emplacement where he administered hasty first aid. Sgt. McKibben, seeing that his comrades were pinned down and were unable to deliver effective fire against the enemy bunkers, again undertook a single-handed assault of the enemy defenses. He charged through the brush and hail of automatic weapons fire closing on the first bunker, killing the enemy with accurate rifle fire and securing the enemy's weapon. He continued his assault against the next bunker, firing his rifle as he charged. As he approached the bunker his rifle ran out of ammunition; however, he used the captured enemy weapon until it too was empty, at that time he silenced the bunker with well placed hand grenades. He reloaded his weapon and covered the advance of his men as they moved forward. Observing the fire of another bunker impeding the patrol's advance, Sgt. McKibben again single-handedly assaulted the new position. As he neared the bunker he was mortally wounded but was able to fire a final burst from his weapon killing the enemy and enabling the patrol to continue the assault. Sgt. McKibben's indomitable courage, extraordinary heroism, profound concern for the welfare of his fellow soldiers and disregard for his personal safety saved the lives of his comrades and enabled the patrol to accomplish its mission. Sgt. McKibben's gallantry in action at the cost of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.^[3]