WEST POINT, N.Y. – United States Military Academy Class of 1861 graduate 1st Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama today. In recognition of this award there will be a ceremony here Nov. 10 at 9:30 a.m. at Cullum Hall’s Memorial Room.

On July 3, 1863 during the Battle of Gettysburg, Cushing’s battery took a severe pounding by Confederate artillery. As Confederate Forces advanced, he manned the only remaining, and serviceable, field piece in his battery. During the advance, he was wounded in the abdomen as well as in the right shoulder. Refusing evacuation to the rear and despite his severe wounds, he directed the operation of his lone field artillery piece continuing to fire on the advancing enemy forces. With Confederate forces within 100 yards of his position, Cushing was shot and killed during this heroic stand. His actions made it possible for the Union Army to successfully repulse the assault.

The Medal of Honor is awarded to members of the Armed Forces who distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry above and beyond the call of duty. The meritorious conduct must involve great personal bravery or self-sacrifice as to clearly distinguish the individual above his or her comrades and must have involved risk of life.

There have been 76 Medal of Honor recipients who were West Point grads.

About West Point:
The U. S. Military Academy at West Point is a four-year, co-educational, federal, liberal arts college located 50 miles north of New York City. It was founded in 1802 as America’s first college of engineering and continues today as one of our nation’s premier leader-development institutions, consistently ranked among top colleges in the country. Its mission remains constant—to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the nation as an officer in the U. S. Army. For more information, go to www.westpoint.edu.

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