

1961

CITATION FOR THE AWARD OF
THE KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY

THE KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY is awarded to Captain Paul R. Baker, 46 485A, United States Air Force, in recognition of his accomplishment of an outstanding feat of airmanship.

Captain Baker distinguished himself by an extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 11 September 1961 near Dublin, Georgia. While performing a low level, high speed combat equivalent reconnaissance mission, at 420 knots and 500 feet altitude, his RF-101 aircraft was struck by a large bird. The bird struck the left front quarter panel of the windscreen and crashed into the cockpit with such explosive force that the pilot was temporarily blinded, deafened by noise and windblast, and severely lacerated by flying fragments of plexiglas and parts of the instrument panel. Under such adverse conditions, Captain Baker was able to maintain control of his aircraft and climb to altitude for a survey of damage. When partial vision returned, he determined the cause and extent of damage, partially controlled the profuse bleeding from his injuries, and by using hand signals directed a wingman to take the lead, proceed to Shaw Air Force Base and land as soon as possible. Captain Baker maintained formation during the 30 minute flight to Shaw Air Force Base even while suffering from the severe aggravation of his injuries by windblast through the broken windscreen. He made a successful landing from a formation approach.

Captain Baker's outstanding feat of airmanship in coping with an airborne emergency situation conforms to the high standards established for the KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR., TROPHY and reflects great credit upon himself, the Tactical Air Command, and the United States Air Force.

Curtis E. LeMay
CURTIS E. LeMAY
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force