

1962

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

The Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy is awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Forrest W. Wilson, AO 1 821 663, United States Air Force, in recognition of his accomplishment of an outstanding feat of airmanship.

Lieutenant Colonel Wilson distinguished himself by an extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight on 9 October 1962. The mission was one of extremely high altitude of upper air sampling. While over Alaskan waters ~~and~~ approximately 300 miles from ~~the nearest~~ land, the aircraft generator failed. ~~This~~ caused ~~complete~~ complete electrical failure ~~and~~ ~~resulted in the~~ loss of communications, ~~engine and flight~~ instruments ~~and~~ navigational equipment. Cockpit heat ~~went to full~~ cold and trim power ~~was~~. Without engine instrumentation, a let-down was imperative to prevent exceeding engine limitations and eventual failure. The let-down required caution to prevent flame-out -- a restart would not have been possible without electrical power. The let-down was negotiated without incident. The next major problem was to navigate from an uncertain position to a suitable landing field. The only instruments available to Lt Colonel Wilson were a stand-by magnetic compass and altimeter. The pilot set up a course to Kodiak, Alaska by reading these instruments with a hand-held flashlight. Outside visibility was restricted by ice on the cabin and frost on the face piece of his pressure suit. He was numbed by the extreme cold and fatigue developed from the constant pressure required on the control column, due to out-of-trim condition which could not be corrected. The pilot gradually descended to an altitude where he could remove the face piece and restore cockpit visibility. The heading selected proved to be accurate and Lt Colonel Wilson arrived over Kodiak, but was unable to attract attention to get the runway lights turned on. He decided on another airfield rather than land on an unlighted field. Again his navigation, with minimum instruments, was accurate. He made an uneventful landing at Elmendorf Air Force Base, with three hours and 15 minutes of flying after the electrical failure.

Lt Colonel Wilson's outstanding airmanship in coping with this emergency conforms to the high standards established for the Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy and reflects great credit upon himself, the Strategic Air Command and the United States Air Force.

Charles E. Lemay
CHARLES E. LEMAY