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CITATION

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

The Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy is awarded to Captain Robert E. Watkins, United States Air Force, in recognition of his accomplishment of an outstanding feat of airmanship. Captain Watkins distinguished himself by an extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 12 October 1965. Captain Watkins was pilot of an F-104 aircraft on a deployment to Southeast Asia. During the fourth refueling at 29,500 feet, the basket assembly separated from the drogue and slid all the way down the receiver aircraft's probe, causing serious damage to the probe head. Captain Watkins remained calm throughout a long, highly involved emergency including materiel failure, inclement weather, and inability to refuel. He finally succeeded in receiving fuel and proceeded to the home station. His courageous action and skill saved a valuable combat ready aircraft. Captain Watkins' 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.