

1966

# C I T A T I O N

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

The Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy is awarded to Captain Larry B. Mason, Michigan Air National Guard, in recognition of his accomplishment of an outstanding feat of airmanship.

Captain Mason distinguished himself by an extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 15 March 1966. Captain Mason was pilot of a B-57 aircraft in Southeast Asia during a combat mission. His aircraft was damaged severely as it encountered heavy ground fire and received three direct hits. The aircraft assumed a near-inverted position as the number one engine began to vibrate excessively and the number two engine fire warning and low fuel pressure lights illuminated. Captain Mason's immediate concern was attainment of a safe ejection altitude away from enemy ground forces. During the ensuing climb, Captain Mason's navigator advised him that he had been hit in the arm and leg and was losing blood. As his navigator had slight chance of surviving an ejection, Captain Mason shut down the left engine and started back to his home base. Although one of the exploding shells severed a wire bundle which left the aircraft without interphone, VHF radio, gyro instruments and fuel quantity gage, Captain Mason made a safe landing.

Captain Mason demonstrated extraordinary courage and outstanding professional ability in his efforts to save a fellow officer and a valuable combat ready aircraft.

Captain Mason'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 and the United States Air Force.