

1972

C I T A T I O N

TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE

KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY

First Lieutenant Wesley G. Zimmerman distinguished himself by successfully recovering an F-4E aircraft that was literally shot to pieces.

On 4 July 1972, Lieutenant Zimmerman was flying an escort mission over North Vietnam when his aircraft received severe damage from AAA, SAM, and two ATOL missiles fired from a MIG 21. All utility systems were lost and only partial flight control surfaces were functional. The rudder was completely gone, the drag chute and drag chute area gone, one-half of the trailing edge slab on each side shot away, and moderate damage sustained by the right engine afterburner can, both wings, and the ECM pod. The fuel gauge read zero. In spite of the high approach speed required by the no-flap approach, the marginal control effectiveness, and a continuous tendency of the aircraft to roll right, Lieutenant Zimmerman landed his aircraft safely and successfully engaged the barrier, preventing further damage to the aircraft and danger to the crew.

Lieutenant Zimmerman's outstanding professional feat of airmanship in preventing the loss of a multimillion dollar aircraft, reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

JOHN D. RYAN, General, USAF
Chief of Staff