

1976

C I T A T I O N
TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE
KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY

Captain Robert G. Downs distinguished himself by an extraordinary feat of airmanship in coping with a complex emergency condition during flight in an F-4 aircraft on 8 April 1976.

On that date, while flying in the clouds, his aircraft was struck by lightning. This rendered all attitude and performance instruments except the turn-and-slip indicator inoperative, caused an engine flameout and flight control transients, removed a 4-foot section of the vertical stabilizer, and forced Captain Downs to execute lost wingman procedures from his flight formation. Through superb airmanship, Captain Downs was able to regain control, climb to visual conditions, and rejoin with his flight for a formation approach and successful landing.

The skillfull and immediate actions of Captain Downs during this critical emergency saved a valuable weapon system and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.