

1986

CITATION

TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE

KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR., TROPHY

Major Ricardo W. Mestre distinguished himself by exceptional airmanship in coping with an in-flight emergency in a C-5A aircraft on 16 January 1980.

Shortly after takeoff from Honolulu International Airport on a cargo/passenger mission to Guam, a severe engine fire broke out. Major Mestre coordinated the crew firefighting efforts and executed an emergency return to the airport. Although emergency procedures were initiated, the flames could not be extinguished, and the fire progressed to the wing and pylon areas. Through excellent knowledge of emergency procedures and outstanding airmanship, Major Mestre maneuvered the burning aircraft to a safe landing. However, the aircraft was still on fire, and Major Mestre gave the order to deploy the escape slides and abandon the aircraft. After all 94 passengers and crew aboard had exited the aircraft, airport firefighters were finally able to put out the fire.

The competent, decisive actions and superior airmanship exhibited by Major Mestre and his crew saved a valuable cargo aircraft and the lives of 94 people and won great credit for himself, the Air Force Reserve, and the United States Air Force.



LEW ALLEN, JR., General, USAF
Chief of Staff