

1982

CITATION

TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE
KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR., TROPHY

Captain Frederic G. Wilson distinguished himself by an outstanding feat of airmanship while participating in aerial flight as a Weapons Systems Officer near Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, on 9 April 1982.

On that date, while navigating an RF-4C low-level, high-speed mission, Captain Wilson's aircraft was struck by a large bird. The impact destroyed the large left panel of the front windscreen, gravely injured the pilot, and damaged his ejection system to the extent that it probably would not function properly in the event of an ejection. Captain Wilson's instrument panel was severely damaged, his helmet visor was destroyed, and because of blood and bird remains, he could see to the outside only through a small spot on the right side of the rear canopy. Captain Wilson immediately took control of the aircraft, climbed to a safe altitude, turned towards a nearby airfield, and transmitted Mayday calls to air traffic control agencies. A chase plane was directed to the disabled aircraft, and the injured pilot regained sufficient consciousness to lower the gear, flaps, and arresting hook. Although he had no pilot training or experience, Captain Wilson, without regard to his own personal safety, decided to attempt a most difficult night formation landing from the rear cockpit of an RF-4C aircraft with severely restricted visibility. He flew an excellent formation approach, touched down in the center of the runway, snapped the throttles to idle, and engaged the arresting cable. Unable to shut down the engines himself, Captain Wilson held the aircraft brakes until the rescue crew arrived to open the canopies and shut down the engines and supervised the rescue crew as they extracted the pilot from his cockpit.

Captain Wilson, in an environment totally foreign to his training and experience and in a life-threatening situation, maintained his composure and skillfully executed this extremely demanding feat of airmanship. His actions definitely saved a valuable combat aircraft and, in all probability, the life of a fellow crewmember and earned great credit for himself, the Air National Guard, and the United States Air Force.