

CITATION

TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE

KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR., TROPHY

Major Larry G. Brooks, 305th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, distinguished himself by exceptional airmanship on 8 October 1985 when he averted an HH-3E helicopter crash which could have resulted in extensive loss of life and property.

Major Brooks was performing copilot duties when the number one engine accelerated uncontrollably to maximum. A highly experienced instructor pilot, Major Brooks immediately and instinctively initiated actions to bring the runaway rotorspeed under control and the number one engine back into the normal operating range. Within seconds, the engine suddenly exploded, engulfing the forward cabin and cockpit with flames and thick, acrid smoke. The pilot could not see outside, nor could he see the instruments or the other crewmembers. The flight engineer was critically burned by the massive fireball at his back, and he finally succumbed to the intense heat and smoke. Unable to see or breathe, Major Brooks had to rely solely on his flying instincts to keep the crippled aircraft under control over the densely populated area. During the descent, Major Brooks was finally able to catch fleeting glimpses of the ground through the helicopter's chin bubble. Despite flames burning his face, shoulder, and arm, Major Brooks successfully guided the helicopter to a safe landing in the only open area available. Although he suffered a broken wrist and severely bruised hip during the egress, Major Brooks went back into the smoke-filled cabin, and with the pilot's help, pulled the unconscious flight engineer to safety.

The outstanding airmanship and tremendous courage of Major Brooks prevented the loss of life and property damage to the surrounding community and reflect great credit upon himself, the Air Force Reserve, and the United States Air Force.