



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE FY06 KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY

TO

PETER J. BYRNE

Lieutenant Colonel Peter J. Byrne distinguished himself by outstanding achievements in airmanship by successfully landing his F-16C after suffering from a stroke while flying in a four defensive counter air training mission on 13 June 2006. During the first aerial engagement, Colonel Byrne's vertebral artery dissected and stopped blood flow to his cerebellum. This condition caused severe vertigo, loss of visual acuity and fine motor skills. As these symptoms began, he engaged the autopilot, and informed his flight members of his condition. His primary concern was avoiding any populated areas in the event of a possible ejection. For ninety minutes he held over eastern Colorado with direction from the five F-16s that rejoined him. As his symptoms began to clear, a rehabilitative process normally requiring three to six months, Colonel Byrne successfully attempted a simulated approach over an unpopulated area. With his fuel state becoming critical, he flew a flawless approach, landing at Buckley Air Force Base despite nearly a 20 knot quartering tailwind. His decisive actions and ability to cope with such a traumatic event prevented a potentially catastrophic mishap. Colonel Byrne's expertise and professionalism were directly responsible for the safe landing of a multi-million dollar aircraft which makes him especially deserving of this award. Colonel Byrne's superior airmanship and ability to perform under extreme circumstances reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

T. MICHAEL MOSELEY
General, USAF
Chief of Staff