

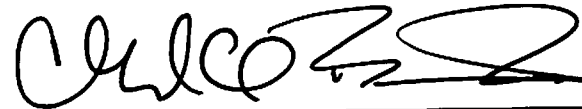
CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE 2022 KOREN KOLLIGIAN, JR. TROPHY

TO

MAJOR BRADY J. AUGUSTIN

The 2022 Koren Kolligian, Jr. Trophy is presented to Major Brady J. Augustin, 31st Operations Support Squadron, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy. On March 2nd, 2022, Major Augustin, while executing an operational mission, experienced a complex emergency during a critical phase of flight. During initial takeoff rotation, his combat-configured F-16CM experienced an unusual settling to the left. In this time-critical moment, Major Augustin quickly and correctly assessed the situation and continued his takeoff. After he was safely airborne, he coordinated with multiple outside agencies and initially determined the aircraft may have experienced a blown left tire. However, after further visual analysis, the aircraft's left main wheel was found fully intact on the ground. With this new discovery, Major Augustin reassessed his situation and conducted a Conference Hotel with system engineers. The F-16 checklists did not address this unusual situation, and a gear-up landing or controlled ejection were determined the best possible courses of action. After extensive coordination, and with a low fuel state complicating the urgency of the situation, Major Augustin elected to land the aircraft gear-up. He then expertly executed a gear-up straight-in and successfully touched down on runway centerline while maximizing runway available, minimizing damage, and guiding his aircraft to a safe stop and egress. Major Augustin showed extraordinary skill, alertness, ingenuity, and proficiency while dealing with a complex emergency resulting in the safe recovery of a potentially catastrophic mishap. The distinctive accomplishments of Major Augustin reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



CHARLES Q. BROWN, JR.
General, USAF
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