

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

(FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

GORDON C. THAYER

Airman Second Class (then Airman Third Class) Gordon C. Thayer distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight in effecting the pickup of a downed pilot in North Vietnam on 24 August 1965. On that date, Airman Thayer, while serving as a pararescuer on a CH-3C helicopter, penetrated deep into hostile territory to a point 180 miles north of the Demarcation Zone. Due to the distance involved, there was little hope of recovery. However, through his determination and devotion to duty over and above that which could normally be expected, Airman Thayer provided valuable assistance in penetrating through the many miles of hostile antiaircraft positions and in hoisting the pilot to safety. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Airman Thayer reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

