

Captain Edward Watson Leonard, Jr.

31May68 Silver Star Second Oak Leaf Cluster

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 8, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting a Second Oak Leaf Cluster to Captain Edward Watson Leonard, Jr. (AFSN: FR-59295), United States Air Force, for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force as an A-1E Skyraider Pilot of the 602d Fighter Squadron, Udorn Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand, on 31 May 1968, in Southeast Asia. On that date, Captain Leonard led a search and rescue effort for an American pilot who had been forced to abandon his aircraft over hostile territory. Despite continuous barrages of withering ground fire from a multitude of gun positions, Captain Leonard pressed the search for the downed pilot. Captain Leonard's aircraft ultimately received so much damage that he was forced to abandon it. His search pinpointed the defending gun positions and materially assisted in locating the downed pilot's position, leading to the eventual success of the rescue. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Captain Leonard has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.