

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
(FIRST OAK LEAF CLUSTER)
TO

JAMES W. BURNS

Staff Sergeant James W. Burns distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Flight Engineer/Gunner on a CH-3E Helicopter, in Southeast Asia on 18 November 1969. On that date, Sergeant Burns with complete disregard of hostile automatic weapons fire and his own safety, stood unprotected in the cabin door of a hovering helicopter to rescue a Forward Reconnaissance Team that had suffered one killed and two wounded and was surrounded and under attack by hostile forces. Once the team was safely aboard the helicopter Sergeant Burns moved to the open cabin window firing his machine gun to suppress the hostile fire with deadly accuracy, unquestionably making possible their successful departure from the hostile area. Sergeant Burns' heroic and decisive actions in the face of hostile automatic weapons fire resulted in the saving of the surviving team members from certain death or capture. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Burns reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.