

3Dec69 Burns DFC

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

TO

JAMES W. BURNS

Staff Sergeant James W. Burns distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as a Flight Engineer/Gunner CH-3E Helicopter, in Southeast Asia on 3 December 1969. On that date, Sergeant Burns heroically and unhesitatingly risked his life to rescue a six man Long Range Reconnaissance Team, which had suffered one wounded, and was under aggressive attack by a large hostile force. Sergeant Burns, ignoring the intense hostile automatic weapons fire, leaned out the door of his helicopter, in full view of the hostile troops fifty yards away, pulling the wounded team leader up the rope ladder and safely aboard the helicopter. During his departure from the landing zone he silenced at least one hostile gun position with his deadly accurate machine gun fire. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Burns reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.