

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF

THE AIR MEDAL
(FIFTH OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO

ROBERT L. LAPOINTE

Sergeant Robert L. LaPointe distinguished himself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Pararescue Specialist on an HH-53 helicopter near Quang Tri City, Republic of Vietnam on 3 April 1972. On that date Sergeant LaPointe's aircraft was participating in an attempt to rescue survivors of downed United States aircraft from certain death or capture by hostile armed forces. The lead aircraft had been subjected to intense enemy fire and was unable to defend itself; flying through the same intense fire, Sergeant LaPointe attempted to suppress the enemy by firing from his minigun position. The professional skill and airmanship displayed by Sergeant LaPointe reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.