



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS
TO
AIRMAN FIRST CLASS HENRY J. O'BEIRNE

Airman First Class Henry J. O'Beirne distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as a rescue specialist at War Zone "D", Republic of Vietnam on 9 November 1965. On that date, Airman O'Beirne played a decisive role in the rescue of 18 severely wounded United States and Royal Australian Army personnel from dense jungle. He hoisted four armed soldiers with chain saws through 180 foot trees to the jungle floor. When the area was cleared and the helicopter was landed, Airman O'Beirne loaded the helicopter with wounded. He then remained on the ground for some two hours to assist in caring for other wounded personnel. At least five lives were positively saved on this rescue operation. During the entire five hour and ten minutes mission, the crew was exposed to ground and artillery fire. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Airman O'Beirne reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

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