

PRESENTATION OF

**THE**

**DISTINGUISHED**

**FLYING CROSS**

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CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER (RET)  
JOHN MICHAEL KNOX



# CITATION TO THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

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For Heroism: In the early morning hours before daylight of 30 January 1968, at the beginning of the Tet Offensive, the gunship platoon of A Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry was scrambled from its base camp in Di An Vietnam to support American ground troops under attack and repel North Vietnamese assaults on American positions in the vicinity of Bien Hoa and Long Binh.

Warrant Officer Knox was a pilot in a UH1-C helicopter gunship attacking numerous and large reinforced enemy forces. Although the aircraft he was flying took numerous hits from intensive heavy automatic weapons fire, with complete disregard to his personal safety, he continued to put effective suppressive fire on the enemy, thus repelling enemy attacks and destroying or neutralizing enemy formations.

During one attack on the advancing enemy troops, his flight leader's aircraft was severely damaged by enemy fire and was forced to land. Although his aircraft was also damaged, he continued his attack on enemy positions and then followed his lead aircraft landing in the Long Binh complex. When his flight leader took command of a replacement aircraft, Warrant Officer Knox volunteered to continue the mission and flew continuously for the next three days and nights without sleep, food, or any assistance until the brunt of the enemy attack was stopped.

Warrant Officer Knox's actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon him, the 17th Air Cavalry, and the United States Army.



## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

WELCOME

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

POSTING OF COLORS

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INTRODUCTIONS

PRESENTATION OF MEDAL  
BY LTC JON MURPHEY

REMARKS BY CWO JOHN M. KNOX

BENEDICTION

DEPARTURE OF OFFICIAL PARTY

RETIREMENT OF COLORS

CEREMONY CONCLUSION

RECEPTION

# HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) is our nation's highest award for extraordinary aerial achievement. As a valor decoration, it ranks fourth in order of precedence, and is awarded to recipients for heroism while participating in an aerial flight.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was established in the Air Corps Act (Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, Public Law No. 446, 69th Congress). This act provided for award "to any person, while serving with the Air Corps of the Army of the United States, including the National Guard and the Organized Reserves, of with the United States Navy, since the 6th day of April, 1917, has distinguished, or who, after the approval of this Act, distinguishes himself by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.

