

**PROPOSED CITATION FOR THE ARMY BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR**

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11046, 24 AUGUST 1962, THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE IS AWARDED TO:

SPECIALIST FIFTH CLASS BILLY D. OATES, US94352471, UNITED STATES ARMY, FOR HEROISM NOT INVOLVING PARTICIPATION IN AERIAL FLIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST A HOSTILE FORCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM. SPECIALIST FIFTH CLASS OATES DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY EXCEPTIONALLY VALOROUS ACTIONS ON 24 JUNE 1967. JUST PRIOR TO MIDNIGHT, THE AIRFIELD CAME UNDER A HEAVY VIET CONG MORTAR ATTACK. WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR PERSONAL SAFETY, SPECIALIST OATES RAN THROUGH THE EXPLODING SHELLS TO AN INJURED MAN. HE THEN PHYSICALLY CARRIED THIS MAN TO A MEDICAL FACILITY. AFTER THIS, HE RAN ACROSS THE DUD LADEN AIRFIELD AND VOLUNTEERED TO BE A CREW CHIEF ON AIRCRAFT 66-706, EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW THE AIRCRAFT WAS HEAVILY DAMAGED. WHEN THE AIRCRAFT BECAME AIRBORNE, HE SPOTTED AN ENEMY POSITION AND DIRECTED FIRE ON IT. HE ALSO BROUGHT EFFECTIVE FIRE ON THE TARGET, PROTECTING THE AIRCRAFT AT THE MOST CRUCIAL PERIOD, WHILE ON THE BREAK. SPECIALIST FIFTH CLASS OATES' PERSONAL BRAVERY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.