

PROPOSED CITATION

By direction of the President, under the provisions of the act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963, the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam is awarded to:

SECOND LIEUTENANT JOHN I O'SULLIVAN, [REDACTED], UNITED STATES ARMY, WHO DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF ON 1 APRIL 1970 WHILE SERVING AS FIRE TEAM LEADER OF AN ARMED HELICOPTER GUNSHIP TEAM OF THE 174TH AVIATION COMPANY, AMERICAL DIVISION, OPERATING IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS INVOLVING CONFLICT WITH AN ARMED HOSTILE FORCE IN THE VICINITY OF QUANG NGAI CITY. THREE WELL ARMED VIET CONG MAIN FORCE COMPANIES HAD WITHDRAWN TO A FORTIFIED VILLAGE IN THE VICINITY OF GRID COORDINATES BS 6672 ON THE EASTERN OUTSKIRTS OF QUANG NGAI CITY. QUICKLY DETERMINING THEIR LOCATION 2LT O'SULLIVAN LED AN ATTACK ON THE WELL CAMOUFLAGED AND ENTRENCHED POSITIONS OF THE ENEMY FORCE. ON HIS FIRST GUN-RUN HE CAME UNDER EXTREMELY INTENSE HOSTILE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE FROM AN ENEMY SQUAD DUG IN ALONG THE TREELINE ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE VILLAGE. 2LT O'SULLIVAN MANEUVERED HIS GUNSHIP INTO A FIRING POSITION AND PLACED FOUR WELL ARMED AERIAL ROCKETS INTO THE ENEMY TRENCHLINE KILLING TWO OF THE INSURGENTS. UNDER A CONTINUOUS RAIL OF ENEMY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE 2LT O'SULLIVAN MADE FIVE MORE ATTACKS ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS, HIS ACCURATE ROCKET FIRE KNOCKED OUT TWO BUNKER POSITIONS ON THE NORTH WEST CORNER OF THE VILLAGE KILLING THE TWO ARMED VC OCCUPANTS. WHEN HIS COMMANDING OFFICER'S UNARMED AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN BY THE ENEMY GUNNERS AND FORCED TO LAND 15 - 20 METERS NORTH OF THEIR LOCATION 2LT O'SULLIVAN FLEW HIS GUNSHIP IN A TIGHT LOW CIRCLE OVER THE DOWNED AIRCRAFT AND CREW SHIELDING THEM FROM FURTHER HARM. WHILE STRAFFING THE ENEMY POSITIONS IN THE TREELINE WITH HIS MACHINEGUNS TO PROTECT THE DOWNED AIRCRAFT AND CREW FROM THE WRATH OF THE ENEMY FORCE, HIS VULNERABLE AIRCRAFT FELL QUICK PREY TO THE ENEMY GUNNERS AND WAS RIDDED WITH A STREAM OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE RUPTURING HIS FUEL CELLS, IGNITING THE MUNITIONS IN HIS EXTERNAL STORES AND SEVERELY DAMAGING THE AIRCRAFT, FORCING HIM TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING TWENTY METERS FROM THE ENEMY

POSITIONS. WHILE UNDER INTENSE ENEMY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE AT PRACTICALLY POINT BLANK RANGE 2LT O'SULLIVAN QUICKLY ASSESSED THE DAMAGE TO HIS AIRCRAFT AND DECIDED TO TRY AND FLY IT, EVEN IN ITS QUESTIONABLE CONDITION TO THE SAFETY OF QUANG NGAI AIRFIELD. RETURNING ALMOST IMMEDIATELY IN ANOTHER GUNSHIP 2LT O'SULLIVAN FLEW CLOSE COVER FOR THE RIGGING CREW WHILE THEY PREPARED THE CO'S DOWNED AIRCRAFT FOR EXTRACTION. WHILE PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR THE RIGGING CREW 2LT O'SULLIVAN, THROUGH HIS KEEN OBSERVATION SPOTTED THREE ARMED ENEMY SOLDIERS MOVING ALONG A TREELINE, WITH ONE WELL PLACED ROCKET 2LT O'SULLIVAN KILLED THE THREE HOSTILES. 2LT O'SULLIVAN THEN PROTECTED THE EXTRACTION OF THE STRICKEN AIRCRAFT. AS THEY DEPARTED THE AREA 2LT O'SULLIVAN SPOTTED TWO VC RUNNING INTO A HOOCH. WITH A BARRAGE OF ROCKETS 2LT O'SULLIVAN DESTROYED THE HOOCH WHICH EMITTED A SECONDARY EXPLOSION DESTROYING AN AMMUNITION STORAGE POINT AND KILLING THE TWO VC. ANOTHER FRIENDLY UNIT LOCATED 700 METERS TO THE EAST NEAR THE VILLAGE OF GO NAI WERE PINNED DOWN BY AN ENEMY FORCE DUG IN AROUND THE EDGE OF THE VILLAGE. 2LT O'SULLIVAN RESPONDING TO THEIR URGENT APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE, LOCATED AND ENGAGED THE ENEMY IN A FIERCE FIRE FIGHT. ON HIS FIRST GUN-RUN ON THE TARGET 2LT O'SULLIVAN CAME UNDER A MURDEROUS TORRENT OF HEAVY AND LIGHT MACHINEGUN, AND AUTOMATIC SMALL ARMS FIRE, RIDDLING HIS AIRCRAFT. SPOTTING THE LOCATION OF THE HEAVY 51 CAL ANTI-AIRCRAFT POSITION 2LT O'SULLIVAN DISREGARDED THE DAMAGE TO HIS AIRCRAFT AND DEPLOYED HIS GUNSHIPS. WITH COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN SAFETY, DESPITE OVERWHELMING ODDS AND FIRE SUPERIORITY 2LT O'SULLIVAN LED HIS GUNSHIPS IN A VICIOUS ASSAULT ON THE ENEMY POSITION. WITH AGGRESSIVE DETERMINATION 2LT O'SULLIVAN UNLEASHED A DEVASTATING VOLLEY OF ACCURATE AERIAL ROCKET FIRE KNOCKING OUT THE HEAVY MACHINEGUN POSITION KILLING THE ENEMY CREW. LEADING HIS GUNSHIPS ON FOUR MORE FURIOUS ASSAULTS ON THE ENEMY EMPLACEMENTS 2LT O'SULLIVAN'S ACCURATELY AIMED ROCKETS KNOCKED OUT TWO CAMOUFLAGED 30 CAL LIGHT MACHINEGUN EMPLACEMENTS, AND RECEIVED FOUR LARGE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS DESTROYING THE ENEMY MUNITIONS STORED WITHIN THEIR STRONGHOLD. RETURNING TO REARM HIS GUNSHIP FOR THE SIXTH TIME 2LT O'SULLIVAN FOUND THE ENEMY FIRE HAD SEVERED A VITAL COMPONENT

OF HIS SECOND AIRCRAFT'S CONTROL SYSTEM, UNDAUNTED, 2LT O'SULLIVAN RETURNED TO THE HOTLY CONTESTED CONTACT AREA AND LED HIS TEAM UNDER CONSTANT ENEMY FIRE ON SEVERAL MORE ASSAULTS ON THE CAMOUFLAGED AND ENTRENCHED POSITIONS OF THE THREE VIET CONG MAIN FORCE COMPANIES. IN A BITTER BATTLE WHICH LASTED FOR EIGHT HOURS, HIS REPEATED FEROCIOUS ASSAULTS ON THE ENEMY RENDERED THEM COMPLETELY DISORGANIZED AND INEFFECTIVE AND REDUCED THEIR FORTIFIED STRONGHOLD TO A MASS OF SMOLDERING RUBBLE. BECAUSE OF THE DEFENDING DARKNESS THE GROUND TROOPS WERE UNABLE TO SWEEP THROUGH THE AREA UNTIL THE FOLLOWING MORNING AT WHICH TIME THEY FOUND 43 BODIES, 10 AK47 RIFLES AND 3 B-40 ROCKET LAUNCHERS, AND ONE WOUNDED POW, FURTHER INTELLIGENCE REVEALED THAT THE ENEMY HAD CARRIED AN ADDITIONAL 35 DEAD AND 25 WOUNDED FROM THE BATTLEFIELD DURING THE NIGHT. 2LT O'SULLIVAN'S EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM AND DEVOTION TO DUTY IN CLOSE COMBAT AGAINST A NUMERICALLY SUPERIOR HOSTILE FORCE WERE IN KEEPING WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF THE MILITARY SERVICE AND REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON HIMSELF, HIS UNIT, AND THE UNITED STATES ARMY.