

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 101st Airborne Division
APO San Francisco 96383

B TRP

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 6534

9 June 1969

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

1. TC 320. The following AWARD is announced.

KNIGHT, FELIX R JR W3157597 () CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER (CW2)
Troop D 1st Squadron 1st Cavalry APO San Francisco 96383

Awarded: The Distinguished Flying Cross

Effective month: NA

Date action: 28 March 1969

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

Reason: For heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty in the Republic of Vietnam on 28 March 1969. Chief Warrant Officer Knight distinguished himself while serving as a pilot of an OH-6A light observation helicopter engaged in a visual reconnaissance mission two kilometers southeast of Be Luong, Republic of Vietnam. Chief Warrant Officer Knight received a radio message stating that a UH-1H aircraft had crashed nearby and he immediately initiated a search for it. Upon finding the downed craft, he observed a wounded, prostrate individual near the wreckage, faintly waving at him. He began an immediate descent toward him and refused to abort the approach even though enemy automatic weapons fire was being directed toward the area of the wreckage. Since there was no clear area in which to land his aircraft, and fully realizing the urgency of extracting the wounded person, he carefully hovered in estimated ten feet high elephant grass, avoiding tree stumps in the area. He immediately ordered his door gunner to unload as much equipment as possible, including ammunition, in order to reduce the weight of the aircraft while the observer went to the aid of the wounded individual. He simultaneously maneuvered his aircraft through the tall grass, cutting a path with his rotor blades, in order to reduce the distance the wounded individual would have to be carried. When the wounded person and the observer had boarded the aircraft, he guided the dangerously overloaded aircraft out of the area and flew the wounded individual to the nearest medical facility. Chief Warrant Officer Knight's 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.

Authority: By direction of the President of the United States under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 2 July 1926.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

M. H. MURLEY
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

f-111-7 March 1969
DALE H. HAYES

LTC, AGC
Adjutant General

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