

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

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 1825

2 March 1971

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TC 439. The following AWARD is announced.

FITZGERALD, BRIAN T. [REDACTED] SP4 67N20 Co C (Aslt Hel) 158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel) (Ambl) (WFJ4CO) APO SF 96383

Awarded: The Distinguished Flying Cross

Date of service: 20 February 1971

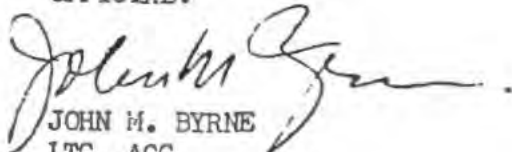
~~Theater: Republic of Vietnam~~

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

Reason: For heroism while participating in aerial flight evidenced by voluntary action above and beyond the call of duty in support of an element of combat troops of the Republic of Vietnam in Laos. Specialist Four Fitzgerald distinguished himself on 20 February 1971 while serving as crew chief aboard a UH-1H lift helicopter during an emergency extraction of a beleaguered ground element of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. Coming under intense hostile fire while approaching the extraction site, Specialist Fitzgerald delivered accurate and devastating suppressive fire on the enemy positions allowing his pilot to land his aircraft. Despite receiving ground fire at close range, Specialist Fitzgerald left the aircraft to assist the soldiers aboard and calmly directed the extraction. Immediately upon taking off, his aircraft came under intense hostile fire and burst into flames. Although the fire had spread to his compartment, he continued to deliver suppressive fire while his pilot executed an emergency landing. Once on the ground Specialist Fitzgerald subjected himself to the fire and exploding ammunition to assist his crew and the passengers to cover to await evacuation. His actions were instrumental in saving the lives of those aboard his aircraft. Specialist Four Fitzgerald's exemplary courage 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.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:


JOHN M. BYRNE
LTC, AGC
Asst AG

DONALD A. SEIBERT
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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