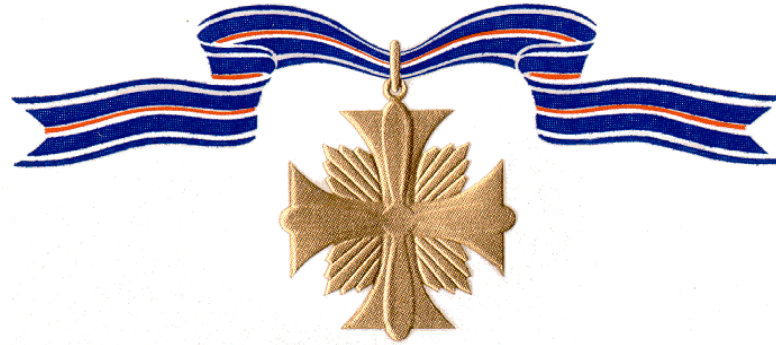


THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

**Lieutenant RICHARD V. BUTCHKA
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Richard V. BUTCHKA distinguished himself by heroism while participating in aerial flight as aircraft Commander of an HH-3E helicopter in south East asia on 24 October 1969. On that date, in the face of known hostile forces, who had just shot down another rescue helicopter, Lieutenant BUTCHKA, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, skillfully and expeditiously effected the rescue of three crewmen from the downed helicopter. The outstanding heroism and selfless devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant BUTCHKA reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Coast Guard.



CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

TO

**Lieutenant RICHARD V. BUTCHKA
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

Lieutenant Richard V. BUTCHKA distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as an HH-3E helicopter aircraft commander near DaNang, republic of Vietnam, on 7 January 1970. On that date, Lieutenant BUTCHKA flew his helicopter to the scene of an aircraft crash site in the South China Sea to rescue a United States Air Force pilot. Despite extremely heavy swells and gusty winds, Lieutenant BUTCHKA landed his helicopter only feet from the survivor, and maintained a stable position until the survivor was safely aboard. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Lieutenant BUTCHKA reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Coast Guard.