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**Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation
Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster**

Staff Sergeant James W. Burns - US Air Force

Citation:

Staff Sergeant James W. Burns distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as a Ch-3E Helicopter Flight Engineer in Southeast Asia on 18 September 1969. On that date while engaged in a highly sensitive counterinsurgency mission deep in hostile territory, Sergeant Burns, even though his helicopter was seriously damaged by over fourteen hits from hostile ground fire during the first sortie, repeatedly exposed himself to hostile fire for over three hours and airlifted seventy troops to a place of safety. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Sergeant Burns reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.