

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

WASHINGTON

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS posthumously to
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JAMES BLACKSTONE TAYLOR, JR.
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

“For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as a Test Pilot engaged in experimental flying attendant upon the development of new types of aircraft during a prolonged period of aviation progress. Volunteering to carry out extremely hazardous demonstration flights of military planes requiring terminal velocity dives, high accelerations, spins and aerobatics, Lieutenant Commander Taylor frequently risked his life in the most unconventional types of aircraft, many of which had never previously been tested in these vital maneuvers. While testing a new plane for the Navy at Dahlgren, Maryland, in March 1939, he lost consciousness as a result of severe acceleration during the violent pull-out after a high-speed dive but, with part of his craft torn loose and a wing deformed, brought the plane under control immediately upon regaining consciousness and successfully flew into the airport. On May 25, 1942, although fully aware of the peril involved, he volunteered for an exceptionally dangerous flight to test a new Navy fighter plane and lost his life when the electrical control mechanism failed to function. Lieutenant Commander Taylor's superb airmanship, great personal valor and fearless devotion to duty were responsible in large measure for the rapid advance of military aviation and in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.”

For the President,

James Forrestal
Secretary of the Navy

