

# Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



## Air Commando Hall of Fame

*Selected on September 9th, 2020 to*

*James D. Walker*

Lieutenant Colonel James D. “JD” Walker, USAF, Retired, served on active duty for 21 years, most notably as an MC-130 navigator in Air Force special operations. Since his retirement in 2007, “JD” has served as the Director of Staff for the 1st Special Operations Wing. Throughout his almost 35 years of service to the United States, Lieutenant Colonel Walker has been instrumental in developing a generation of Air Commandos and setting the foundation for the command’s success for decades to come. A combat-tested warrior, he has supported operations in Rwanda, Liberia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Notably, he was in the initial wave of special operations forces sent forward after 9/11 to conduct offensive operations in Afghanistan. He flew 92 combat sorties in challenging conditions and his team dropped the first BLU-82 bomb on Al-Qaeda positions. A little over a year later, he served as the J3 for special operations aviation missions into Iraq, leading the planning and execution of 770 combat missions in the early weeks of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Furthermore, as the 1st Special Operations Wing’s Director of Staff, he has expertly supported 10 wing commanders tasked with executing combat operations around the globe. Between his active duty service and his role as the Director of Staff, “JD” Walker’s vast knowledge of the 1st Special Operations Wing and Air Force Special Operations Command has been and continues to remain invaluable. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel James D. Walker reflect great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations Command, and Air Commandos of every generation.