

# Certificate to Accompany the Award of the



## Air Commando Hall of Fame

Inducted on this Day of October 15th, 2022 to

*William O. Schism*

Lieutenant Colonel William O. "Sam" Schism distinguished himself as a sixteen-year-old flying as a United States Navy seaplane radio operator in the World War Two Pacific Theater. He further distinguished himself during a 25-year United States Air Force (USAF) career by exceptional, competent, professional service as a worldwide airlift, reconnaissance, photo-mapping, and special operations officer and pilot. A gifted leader and manager, he quietly, competently led crews, squadrons and special projects with great success. During his 9,600-hour USAF flying career, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Meritorious Service Medals and eleven Air Medals. He commanded AC-130A Spectre Gunships in the SEA War and distinguished himself in combat flying operations. He then filled key management and leadership positions in the Air Commando community and was chosen as the active-duty lead for the conversion of the Reserve 919th SOG, into the gunship weapon system. Assembling a hand-picked team of active duty professionals, he provided excellent and positive leadership to active duty and reservists alike and did an outstanding job in concluding a difficult conversion successfully with decades of lasting impact. After his USAF retirement, the US Government decided not to honor its promise of lifetime medical care for 20-year military veterans. Lt Col Schism sued the Federal Government and along with Brigadier General Bud Day and Major Robert Reinlie battled for five years until the promise of lifetime medical care for 20-year veterans was set up by Congress itself. As "one of the most important cases the court decided," Schism v United States led to Tricare Today, for all services, all ranks, and all Air Commandos. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel William O. "Sam" Schism reflect great credit upon himself, Air Force Special Operations Command, and Air Commandos of every generation.