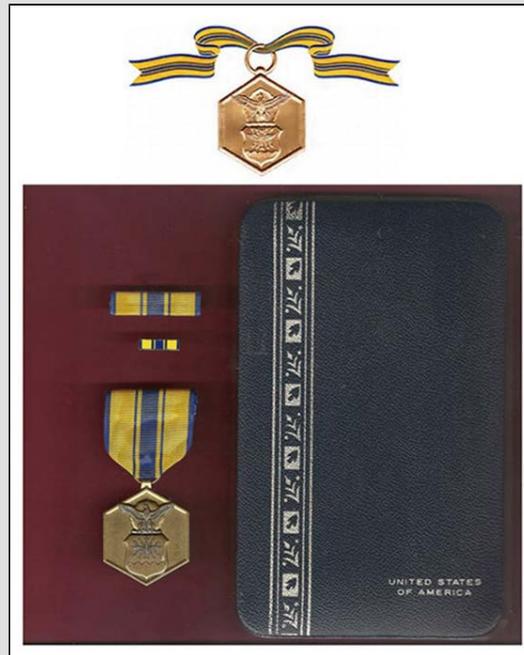


**Air Force Commendation Medal
Awarded To
Staff Sergeant Jackie R. Kays
1 June 2015**



**Don Poss,
VSPA Webmaster, LM 37**



12/20/15

Hello Don, hope this note finds you guys in good health!

Wanda and I are hanging in.

Don, today an official representative of Congressman Sam Graves came to the house and presented me with the "Air Force Commendation medal" for my actions at DaNang in 65. It's not a bronze Star, but it is recognition from the Air Force after fifty years!

Thought you would want to know.

Your OLD jungle buddy,


Jackie

"I am forever honored, for I have marched with heroes!"

15 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7041

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2506

411 JULES STREET, ROOM 111
ST. JOSEPH, MO 64501
(816) 749-0800

906 BROADWAY, P.O. BOX 364
HANNIBAL, MO 63401
(573) 221-3400

December 18, 2015

Mr. Jackie R. Kays
1922 Lakeview Terrace
Chillicothe, Missouri 64601

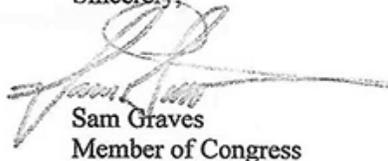
Dear SSGT Jackie R Kays, USAF (Retired):

It gives me great honor to present to you the Air Force Commendation Medal for your courageous act of heroism on November 21, 1965, while stationed at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam. Your quick action saved the lives of your fellow airmen. No greater act of selflessness can be given.

With the recent passing of the 50 year anniversary of that fateful night I am humbled and honored to have a small part in seeing recognition bestowed on you. I extend my personal appreciation as well as the appreciation from all citizens of the Sixth Congressional District for your service and sacrifice to your country. I know how proud you and your family are to receive this honor, as I am proud to present it.

Thank you for serving this great country in our time of need.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

THE AIR FORCE COMMENDATION MEDAL

HAS BEEN AWARDED TO

STAFF SERGEANT JACKIE R. KAYS

FOR

ACT OF COURAGE

21 NOVEMBER 1965

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Staff Sergeant Jackie R. Kays distinguished himself by an act of courage at Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam, on 21 November 1965. On that date, at approximately 0030 hours, Sergeant Kays observed a C-123 (#55-4530) crash short of the runway, outside the base perimeter in an area known to be frequented by Viet Cong. The aircraft skidded through barbed wire fences, an exploding minefield, trenches and a bunker, and then broke in two just aft of the cockpit. The rear portion flipped over on top of the cockpit. With complete disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Kays left the safety of the base perimeter and rushed to the aircraft despite the potential presence of unexploded mines, leaking fuel and unexpended Mk-24 flares still within the aircraft. He unhesitatingly entered the aircraft and persevered in his humanitarian efforts until he succeeded in removing two of the injured victims to a place of safety. After rescuing one crewmember, and with full knowledge of the smells of fuel, hydraulic fluid and unexpended flares hanging from racks in the plane, he returned to the aircraft and rescued the co-pilot while sustaining a serious, career ending injury. His actions paved the way for the crash rescue team to safely evacuate the remaining five crew members. By his prompt action and humanitarian regard for his fellowman, Sergeant Kays has reflected credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND

1 JUNE 2015

Margaret B. Boore

MARGARET B. BOORE
MAJ GEN, USAF
COMMANDER, AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER



R. Philip Deavel

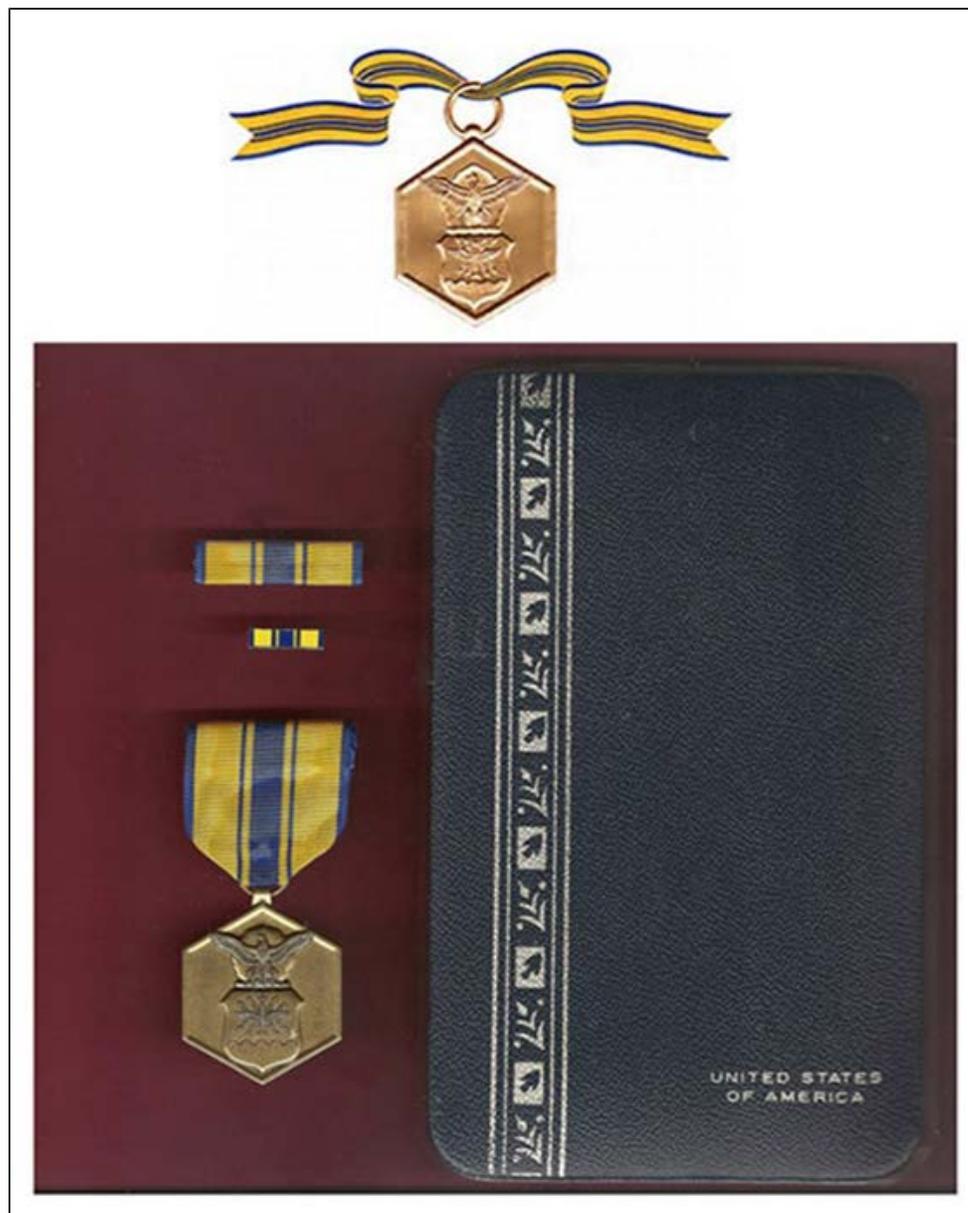
R. PHILIP DEAVEL
DIRECTOR
AIR FORCE REVIEW BOARD AGENCY

Order: G-117
FEB 14

Condition: 0

PAS Code: N/A

RDP: N/A



**In an ancient minefield at the South end of the old north runway at Đà Nẵng, there are still two deep furrows where medics dragged Jackie away...
*and they weren't caused by boot heels.***

Don Poss,
VSPA Webmaster and
Director Communications

Return to Jackie Kays' book review,
[To Die Alone](#)

We Take Care of Our Own

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