



*Man's Flight
Through Life Is
Sustained By The
Power Of His
Knowledge*

TO HONOR

THOMAS BARRY MITCHELL

MAJOR, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, USAFA, 1963

1941-1968

Major Thomas Barry Mitchell and eight crewmates were killed-in-action when their aircraft was shot down in the vicinity of Tchepone, Laos on the night of 22 May 1968. Major Mitchell was flying as the co-pilot on a C-130A flare ship, call sign Blind Bat 01, whose mission was to find, illuminate, and direct air strikes against North Vietnamese truck traffic and other ground targets along the Ho Chi Minh trail in southern Laos. Described by his squadron tactics and training officer as an exceptional pilot and "go-to-guy" for dangerous missions, Major Mitchell's aircraft went down in a remote area of heavy jungle near the border of South Vietnam. Over forty years later, searchers discovered the wreckage of Blind Bat 01 and found Major Mitchell's Air Force Academy class ring while sifting through the soil at the crash site.

An exceptional pilot and courageous officer

By: Willard Hartman, Sue Sullivan, and Colonel Gary Walston