



Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation

The President of the United States takes great pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Flying Cross to Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Barnhill for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as an KB-66 Aircraft Commander over Southeast Asia on 1 January 1971. On that date, flying an unarmed electronic countermeasures aircraft, he provided vital support for an extremely important heavy-bomber strike mission. Although a surface-to-air anti-aircraft missile was launched against his aircraft, and violent evasive maneuvers were necessary, he was able to remain in his assigned orbit to lend maximum support to the bomber aircraft until they had safely egressed the target area. His alertness and outstanding determination were vital factors in the successful outcome of this highly difficult tactical mission. The professional competence, aerial skill, and devotion to duty displayed by Colonel Barnhill reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.