



Distinguished Flying Cross
Recipient:

Birth: January 21, 1921

Death: July 15, 2013

William Richard Dawson

Branch: U.S. Air Force

Theatre: Korea

Citation: On 27 November 1951, Lieutenant Dawson distinguished himself by extraordinary achievement in aerial combat. As element leader in a flight of four F-86 type aircraft, Lieutenant Dawson displayed outstanding tactical skill and leadership in an encounter with approximately sixty enemy MIG-15 aircraft. When first sighted, the enemy force was heading south towards an area under attack by friendly fighter-bombers. During the encounter that followed, Lieutenant Dawson with outstanding airmanship and determination skillfully maneuvered his element into such advantageous positions that the enemy formation was forced to withdraw. After successfully dispersing the numerically superior enemy force, singled out one of the enemy elements and maneuvered into firing position, firing several long bursts into the enemy and causing the pilot to bail out. The courage, tactical skill and exemplary leadership displayed by Lieutenant Dawson on this occasion has reflected the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.