

CAPT BRUCE NYSTROM

US NAVY

Date of Loss:

02 December 1966

Country of Loss:

North Vietnam

Loss Coordinates:

200500N 1061200E

(XH254209)

Status: MIA

Category 2



Bruce August Nystrom was born in Marion, Ohio, October 18, 1927, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. U. A. Nystrom. Bruce graduated from Harding High School in 1945. While at Harding High School, Bruce participated in the senior chorus, played football, and met his sweetheart/future wife, Nancy (Nicoll). Bruce Nystrom was also a graduate of Stanford University.

Bruce Nystrom served as an aviator for the United States Navy. Commander Nystrom was a veteran of the Korean war, where he flew 63 combat missions. Nystrom later served in the Vietnam War flying over 50 combat missions. On December 2, 1966, while serving on the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVA-42), he was shot down over Vietnam. Nystrom was due to return home a month after he was shot down. Nystrom commanded the Blue Bolt Squadron on the aircraft carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CVA-42). He and his wing-man, Lt Paul Worrell were declared missing in action near Hanoi in North Vietnam. Although Worrell's remains were later returned in 1985, Nystrom's body was never returned or accounted for. He was declared "Presumed Dead" by the Department of the Navy in 1978.

Both his parents and his wife, Nancy, advocated for the return of those lost in Vietnam until their deaths. Nancy traveled to the Paris Peace Talks on Christmas day with 148 other Americans trying to find information on fathers and husbands missing in action.

They submitted names to the North Vietnamese Delegation in hopes that information would be later released. Sadly Bruce Nystrom's parents and wife died with no word on the status of Commander Nystrom.

Nancy Nystrom, who became a national advocate for Americans missing in action in Vietnam and once collected 10,000 signatures on a petition seeking recognition of the problem, died July 15 at St. Catherine's Laboure Manor. She was five days short of her 85th birthday and had suffered a massive stroke.

Her husband, Capt. Bruce Nystrom, was commanding officer of an attack squadron at Cecil Field Naval Air Station when his jet fighter was shot down over North Vietnam in December 1966.

Mrs. Nystrom said, in a 1987 interview with the Jacksonville Journal, she endured years of ups and downs, of raised hopes and dashed expectations. The couple, who married in 1949, were high school sweethearts in Marion, Ohio.

"Mama just had such inner strength," said her daughter, Andria Dostaler of Jacksonville. "There wasn't a day that went by that she didn't miss Daddy. But she would tell us that when you think you can't go through one more day, you just tie another knot in the rope and you hang on."





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