

MIA's wife reminds Legion many still missing in Vietnam

Mrs. Judy Smith, wife of Capt. Bud Smith, Milwaukie, who is missing in action in Vietnam, spoke to members of the Milwaukie American Legion Post and Unit.

Mrs. Smith, who was accompanied by another MIA wife, Darlene Sehorn, in February of 1970 visited with North Viet Nam officials.

Mrs. Smith told the Legion that while 590 Prisoners of War had been returned, more than twice that number are still unaccounted for in Vietnam. Twenty-nine of these men are from Oregon, including Capt. Smith, said Mrs. Smith.

According to Mrs. Smith, her husband's airplane's wreckage, like many others, was found with no trace of bodies or survival equipment. Mrs. Smith indicated that the Defense Department concludes these men were captured, yet there is no word from Hanoi concerning them.

The MIA captain's wife urged that members write to their congressmen and the President, asking them to continue investigating the fates of these men. Phyllis Corley, national security chairman for the Milwaukie unit, said that the wearing of MIA bracelets serves as a constant reminder that there are more than 1,200 missing in action, whose names appear on no list from Hanoi either dead or alive.

Mrs. Smith was presented with an honorary membership in the Milwaukie Unit No. 180.



Captain "Bud" Smith; retrieved from www.dailykos.com (2014).

Hallie W. "Bud" Smith
Captain, U.S. Air Force

Born: October 16, 1941

Milwaukie High School Class of 1959

Lewis & Clark College Class of 1963

Married to Judy Smith (Huddleston)

Date Missing: January 8, 1968
Was declared deceased in 1975.

Incident Synopsis: while on an aerial reconnaissance mission, before reaching the target location, the plane Captain Smith was piloting with First Lieutenant Charles L. Bifulchi lost all contact over a mountainous area of South Vietnam; it was presumed that the plane had crashed, although neither body was immediately recovered. Both men were considered Missing-In-Action and were possibly Prisoners-of-War (MIA/POW), although neither was officially listed as a prisoner by the North Vietnamese government. A 2008 article published on the website DailyKos.com reported that in response to Captain Smith's disappearance, his hometown in suburban Portland – led by students at his alma mater, Milwaukie High – generated a letter campaign that sent Oregon Governor Tom McCall 50,000 letters in support of Captain Smith's release; the letters were intended for the North Vietnamese government, whom McCall was to meet with as part of a peace mission to Southeast Asia. In the mid-1970s both Smith and Bifulchi were declared deceased by the Department of Defense. According to the website ArlingtonCemetery.net, in 2006 the body of Lieutenant Bifulchi was recovered from a remote mountainside in Vietnam and reburied in his home town in Massachusetts.