

To The Family of Herbert Crosby:

In the early 1970's, as the Vietnam War was coming to an end, and so many of our service men and women were being lost, the League of Families had a program to help locate the MIA's and POW's. For a nominal fee, you could mail into the League of Families and they would select a name of a MIA or POW and send you a silver bracelet with the persons name and the date they went MIA/POW. You were to wear your bracelet until your person was found or released. The League of Families said they would notify you when they received word. This being a good cause, my sister and I sent for bracelets. I received my bracelet with the name Herbert Crosby, 1-10-70. I wore my bracelet for a while and as time passed, it was put in my jewelry box. Over the years, I would see the bracelet with the name and wonder whatever happened with him.

A couple of years ago, when I saw the bracelet, I thought with the onset of the computer age, maybe I could get some information on this person. I went to my computer and put his name in and hit search. Low and behold, his name came up on a couple of sites that gave me his military information, which included a picture, his place of birth and the circumstances of his disappearance. While satisfied with this information, now I had a face and some history to go along with the name, which made it even more real. Since the place of birth was Ft. Wayne and it is only a couple hours away, I thought that one day I might go there to try to locate Herbert's family and give them the bracelet. I thought that they might like to know others have not forgotten him and his service to his country.

That day came for me on July 10, 2006. My niece, who is sort of a history buff, and I headed for Ft. Wayne with this information. We thought that we could go to the health department and obtain a birth certificate which would give the parents names. In order to get a birth certificate you must already have the parent's names so that was a dead end. They did, however, refer us to the Ft. Wayne library, which is known for its genealogy department. We spent a couple of hours there reviewing old newspapers for birth announcements or maybe an article near the date that Herbert went missing, but to no avail. We then decided to go to the phone book. On our third call, the gentleman referred us to Robert Crosby, who he said would be the first cousin of Herbert. We decided to go directly to Robert's business, R. E. Crosby & Son, Inc. When we got there, Robert graciously accepted the bracelet and shared some history of Herbert with us. It was wonderful to have found someone from Herbert's family. At that point, we felt we had accomplished our mission.

Three weeks later, I received an e-mail from Robert, stating that Herbert's remains have been recovered and identified. At the time of this writing, preparations are being made for awards to be presented and arrangements for a military funeral are being made. After 36 years, there will finally be some closure for the family, Herbert, and myself. He will finally be at home and at peace.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to the family of Herbert Charles Crosby for allowing me to be a part of your family and sharing the closure that has been 36 years in coming.

Sandra Wilhelm Nissen (Sandy)