



Joseph Stuart is the youngest of five (5) children of Lt. Col. John F. Stuart, USAF, Missing in Action. Lt. Col. John F. Stuart was 39 years old when his plane was shot down over North Vietnam on December 20, 1972. Five days before Christmas, 1972, one month before the Peace Treaty was signed. Lt Col Stuart, as the aircraft commander of a B-52D, together with 5 other crew members, were part of Operation Linebacker II (call sign Orange 3). Their aircraft was hit by MIG fire and at least two SAMs. The co-pilot and navigator ejected and were captured and then released during Operation Homecoming in March 1973. The remaining 4 members went down with the aircraft. The radar navigator and EWO remains were later repatriated. Only Lt Col Stuart and MSgt Arthur McLaughlin (tail gunner) remain MIA/BNR. The Linebacker II mission successfully convinced North Vietnam to return to the Peace Talks table in January 1973 which led to Operation Homecoming. Their crash site was the first site visited and excavated in 1984 when the US was finally allowed back into the country. Joseph has been an active member of the National League of POW/MIA Families ("League") since 2016, is a member of the League Board of Directors and is the Indiana State Coordinator for the League. To help educate others on the League's mission, and to raise awareness of and for the POW/MIA issue, he participates in Run For The Wall each May including participating in outreach missions to other KIA/MIA families, VA centers and local schools. Additionally, he is a board member of the Indianapolis POW/MIA Council, an auxiliary member of VFW Post 1154 (Lafayette, IN), an active member of the U-Tapao Royal Thai Navy Airfield Alumni Group, and a member of Sons and Daughters in Touch (a national support organization committed to uniting the Gold Star sons and daughters of American servicemen who were killed, or who remain missing, as a result of the Vietnam War.) Joseph is a graduate of Vincennes University, has been a private pilot/licensed A&P Aircraft Mechanic for over 30 years and currently works for an international air cargo company. Joseph resides in Indianapolis, seeks accountability for his dad and all MIAs from Vietnam, loves to travel, spend time with family and talk about the POW/MIA issue to all who will listen. He has a son currently serving in the United States Marine Corps and has four grandchildren.