



Mark Lane Stephensen, II

Mark Stephensen was born in Owatonna, Minnesota. As the son of an Air Force pilot, his family was stationed in several different states and foreign countries. Mark attended the University of Idaho and graduated from Boise State University in 1993 with a degree in Business Administration (Quantitative Emphasis). Employed by the State of Idaho for more than 39 years, he retired in July, 2017.

Mark's father, Col. Mark L. Stephensen, USAF, was listed MIA on April 29, 1967, while flying a RF-4C over North Vietnam. Mark's family was stationed at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, at the time. Col. Stephensen's remains were unilaterally repatriated, identified and returned in 1988. His navigator, Capt. Gary Sigler, USAF, captured and held as a POW for nearly 7 years, was returned in Operation Homecoming, 1973.

Since 1983, Mark has been actively involved in the POW/MIA Accounting issue, serving in various appointed and elected offices with the National League of POW/MIA Families. He began as Idaho State coordinator and was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1984, serving as Treasurer/Finance Chairman for many years. A past Chairman of the Board of Directors, he currently serves as Vice-Chairman. Throughout the decades, Mark has given presentations to Vets groups, set up booths at military airshows, written OP-ED articles, and conducted radio and TV interviews about the accounting mission. He continues to represent the League in the Intermountain West.

Mark's activities continue to include meetings with Congressional delegations, speeches and public outreach in support of the League's national office. He represented the League in a fledgling fundraising effort in the small town of American Falls, Idaho nearly 20 years ago. From that speech, the states of Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Montana have developed very active organizations that directly support the League with public awareness activities and fundraising. Over the past 18 years, nearly \$250,000 has been raised by these nonprofit associations on behalf of the League. Mark maintains close, direct contact with each of these groups and conducts an annual "summit" during which they all come together for updates and workshops.

Mark has participated in two League Delegations to Southeast Asia. Currently engaged in developing an educational outreach project that will include a database derived from conversion of paper documents into electronic media, a virtual resource center, to include school curriculum materials and the permanent archiving of League documents and artifacts.

Residents of Boise, Idaho, Mark is married to Doneta (Watts) Stephensen, a retired elementary classroom teacher. They have two adult children, both also residing in Idaho.