



Bruce McClelland
November 22nd, 2024

Bruce McClelland was born December 17, 1946, in Birmingham AL. He died 77 years later on November 22nd, 2024, of heart failure at his home in Birmingham. In his lifetime, Bruce lived on four continents. He went to grammar school in the US and in Morocco. He went to high school in Hawaii, in Oklahoma, and in Germany. He actually had two high school diplomas - one from Oklahoma and one from Germany. He worked toward a college degree at the University of Tennessee, at the University of Alabama, and at UAB, the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he graduated with a BA in French and German.

In 1967, In the middle of his studies, he joined the Air Force. He spent two years in language school studying North Vietnamese. He then was assigned to the 6990th Security Squadron, 'the Silent Warriors,' of the US Air Force Security Service flying missions that intercepted all enemy radio transmissions from Surface-to-Air Missiles, aircraft, and command posts. He'd immediately translate them for real-time intel for allied fighters and bombers. Having served his country in the thick of the Vietnam War, he got out in 1971 at the rank of Staff Sergeant. He returned home and completed his college studies. Bruce taught English as a Second Language, to Vietnamese refugees and to many other non-English speakers at the YWCA, at Epic School, and at UAB. He taught French for many years at Jackson-Olin High School in Birmingham.

Bruce played an important role in the Son Tay Raid, November 21, 1970, and was an active member of the Son Tay Raid Association. He was a great friend to the international faculty and students at Maxwell AFB, making the French-speakers feel appreciated. He faithfully attended the annual Veterans Day commemoration of the French and British World War 2 airmen who died in pilot training at Maxwell AFB, sponsored by the French and British officers at Air War College. He helped many veterans through his work with the website TogetherWeServed.com, a massive database of military records for veterans. Bruce was preceded in death by his father, Robert Bruce McClelland Sr., Master Sergeant, USAF, retired, his mother Margaret T. McClelland, and his brother James McClelland. He leaves behind his wife, Suzanne Beaudry McClelland, his sister, Janette Wilder (Johnny), his niece, Megan Wilder, his grandnephews Kaden Ray and Aiden Eugene, and a grandniece, Raelynn Michelle.

Bruce was a complex person. He was a brilliant linguist and a sweet spirit. He never met a stranger. He leaves us with many smiles and happy memories.