



## Lawrence Neal Helber

Major  
United States Marine Corps  
Fighter Squadron 315, Marine Air Group 11, 1st Marine Air Wing  
Born 5 February 1934  
Missing in Action 24 January 1966  
Declared Dead 7 December 1977  
South Vietnam

Lawrence Neal Helber was born February 5, 1934, in Logan OH, the oldest son of Lawrence E. Helber and Ruby Huffines Helber. Larry was raised in Logan, along with younger brothers Charles and Tom.

He attended Logan High School, where he participated in Football, Choir, Key Club and the Student Council. He also had a steady girlfriend, Mary Ferguson, that would later become his bride.

Larry enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on May 10, 1953, while he was still in high school. He knew this was the career path he wanted to take. As soon as he received his diploma, he was sent to bootcamp in Paris Island, SC as a Private First Class. He rose through the ranks, becoming a Staff Sergeant by early 1961, when he was selected for Officers Candidate School in Quantico, VA, receiving his Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant on March 3, 1961.

On January 24, 1966, four pilots and two planes departed DaNang Airfield on a strike mission into enemy held territory northwest of DaNang. Neither plane returned from the mission and all four were listed as Missing in Action.

Capt. Helber was officially declared dead on December 7, 1977. He was posthumously promoted to Major. His remains were never recovered.

The Helber family lived in Tustin and attended Tustin schools with Lawrence was declared Missing in Action. In 1971, Tustin adopted Helber as their own. If you attended Tustin High School in the late 1960's and 1970's and wore a POW/MIA bracelet, chances are you wore the POW/MIA bracelet of Capt. Lawrence N. Helber.

