

## Nixon Lauds Valor Of Fighting Men; Stops at Navy Base

NYTimes FEB 17 1973

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Feb. 16 (UPI) — President Nixon praised the bravery of America's fighting men today and said that when a prisoner of war can return after 6½ years with "God Bless America" on his lips, "it has all been worthwhile."

Mr. Nixon, on his way to his winter retreat at Key Biscayne, Fla., for a long weekend, stopped off at the Jacksonville Navy base to pick up his daughter Julie and his son-in-law Lieut. David Eisenhower, who serves on the guided-missile cruiser U.S.S. Albany, which is based here. Mr. Nixon toured the Albany while he was here.

Mrs. Eisenhower was on hand to greet her father when he stepped from the Presidential jet, as was Mrs. Fredrick Wright, whose husband, a Navy lieutenant commander, was killed in Vietnam.

"He was so elated that you were re-elected," Mrs. Wright told the President.

"Our men were very brave—those who died and those who served, but the women were brave also," the President responded.

Then, noting that the first words of many of the returning prisoners have been "God Bless America," the President declared: "When anyone can say that after 6½ years in prison, it has all been worthwhile."

### 'Didn't Die in Vain'

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Feb. 16 (AP)—Mr. Nixon told Mrs. Wright that her husband "did not die in vain."