

With the Fleet



UPI Telephoto

David Eisenhower (left) and USS Albany commander J. D. Elliott took the president on a tour of the ship yesterday at Jacksonville

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'He Didn't Die in Vain'

SFChronicle

Nixon Visits Viet War Widow

Jacksonville, Fla.

President Nixon met the widow of a Navy flyer killed over North Vietnam three months ago and told her yesterday, "He didn't die in vain."

With Mrs. Nixon, the president stopped at the nearby Mayport Naval Station en route to his Florida home on Key Biscayne and was introduced to Mrs. Frederick Wright. She is the widow of a Navy lieutenant commander shot down and killed near the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone in November.

HUSBAND

Mr. Nixon, whose public statements recently focused on the dramatic return of war prisoners, leaned toward Mrs. Wright and paid tribute to "those who died, those who served, the POWs, but the women were brave also."

Referring to her husband, Mr. Nixon told Mrs. Wright: "He didn't die in vain."

The Nixons were greeted by some 500 persons at the base, most of them Navy personnel and dependents and many of them assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Saratoga which recently returned from a tour of duty off Vietnam.

"I was happy to bring the boys home," Mr. Nixon said in an impromptu speech. He said the patriotic statements by recently freed prisoners of war "really makes it all worthwhile."

The President referred specifically to Navy Captain Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr. a POW from Virginia Beach, Va., who stepped off a plane at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines and said, "God Bless America."

"Your loved - ones some-

times wondered if it was all worth while," Mr. Nixon said, "but when you hear something like that, you know it's worthwhile."

STINT

The Saratoga's ten-month stint off Asia was a "long and tiring assignment," Mr. Nixon said, "but what you men did helped make the great event possible."

First stop on the two-hour, midafternoon Jacksonville stop was the USS Albany, to which Mr. Nixon's son-in-law, Lieutenant (J.G.) David Eisenhower, is assigned.

The ship's commander, Captain J. D. Elliott, demonstrated the operation of a Talos ship-to-air missiles on the cruiser's fantail.

The presidential party was taken from the ship via Secret Service cars to the

beach apartment where David and Julie Nixon Eisenhower live.

MAYOR

There the President was greeted by the town's mayor, William Howell, and teacher Tammie Foraker's first grade class pupils, who walked three blocks from Atlantic Beach Elementary School where Mrs. Eisenhower was to teach last year before she broke her leg.

Mr. Nixon gave Mrs. Foraker a pen, telling her she should use it to "correct the papers" of her students.

The Eisenhowers introduced the Nixons to several of the neighbors. Then the two couples stood on the balcony of the apartment waving at the crowd of some 100 persons standing in a narrow street below.

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