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POW Flyer's Wife Sues

For Divorce

The wife of an Air Force colonel who was held captive for more than five years in North Vietnam filed suit yesterday to end their marriage.

The suit to dissolve the marriage of 18 years was filed in San Mateo Superior Court by Loretta Stirm, wife of Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Stirm.

On March 17, Stirm, 41, was reunited with his wife and four children at Travis Air Force Base in an emotional scene.

A page one photograph showed the family charging into the arms of the freed prisoner of war, who said afterward:

"This display of warmth is entirely unnecessary but it further proves to us that we had a cause."

Stirm was shot down on October 27, 1967 while flying his F-105D over North Vietnam. During his captivity, said Stirm, he was tortured and "treated like an animal."

Mrs. Stirm, of 279 Curlew street, Foster City, asked for custody of the children, Lorrie, 15, Robert Jr., 14, Roger, 12, and Cynthia, 11.