

BURST of JOY (1973)



Burst of Joy is a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of released Vietnam prisoner of war Lt. Col Robert L. Stirm being reunited with his family in 1973 at Travis Air Force Base in California. This iconic shot of the Vietnam War era represented to many the reunification of a soldier and his family. However it did more to capture the complexities of human existence and interactions when it was later revealed that just three days before he landed at Travis, Stirm was given a letter a "Dear John" from his wife by a chaplain seeking a divorce.