

Kurn Frederick Kruger

Died: July 19, 1981

Kurn suffered a fatal heart attack at the age of 41 on Sunday, July 19, 1981 at the home of his parents in Woodside, California, in San Mateo County south of San Francisco.

In accordance with his parents' wishes, Kurn's cremated remains were buried at sea at 10:30 a.m. on August 26, 1981 somewhere off the coast of Northern California. The ship from which the ceremony was performed — the U.S.S. Hector (AR 7) from the San Francisco-based fleet — had departed from Mare Island, Vallejo, California, two days before "to conduct training exercises in preparation for our nation's commitment to freedom of the sea," reads the August 31 letter from E.F. Jardin, Jr., presumably an officer with the fleet.

The ceremony was under the command of the ship's Executive Officer, Commander J. W. R. Felty, U. S. Navy, with the accompaniment of the ships' chaplain, a six-man rifle squad, two flag-bearers, four urn bearers, one wreath bearer, and a fifty-man honor platoon from the ship's crew.

Pictures of the ceremony were taken, and presented to the parents, along with the flag used, says officer Jardin's letter. The letter recites that the mid-morning ceremony took place on the ship's forecandle. "The ship was stopped for the ceremony," the letter says, "and the flag flown half-mast. The weather was beautifully sunny with slightly rolling seas and calm winds. With these favorable conditions, both the Religious and Military ceremonies were conducted with dignity and solemnity."

Kurn listed Northfield, Illinois, as his home address in The Green Book and the Aegis, but says he attended high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he graduated with honors, was on the yearbook, in the band (French horn), managed the basketball, football and track teams. His resume says he lived with his parents for eight years as a young child in Peru, learning Spanish there.

At Dartmouth, Kurn majored in geography-economics, was a member of Green Key, and crewed and was in the band his freshman year. During all four years at the college, Kurn was a member of the Spanish Club, the outing club, and Cabin & Trail. He was on the ski patrol and in the flying club as a junior and senior.