

## ⚠ Weather Alert

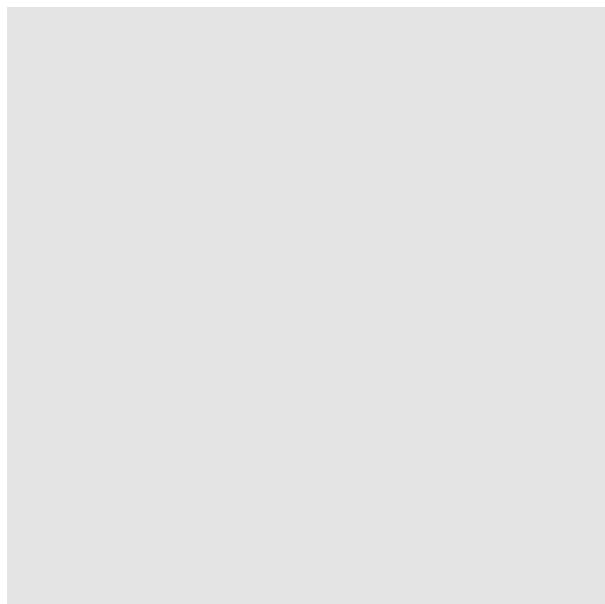
### Heat Advisory from 12PM CDT FRI until 7PM CDT FRI

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## Retired WKU professor stranded in Vietnam in coma will return home Monday

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Edward Bohlander poses with his daughter Elizabeth and son Will Bohlander.

submitted

After a severe head injury left him comatose in Vietnam for months, retired Western Kentucky University professor Edward Bohlander will return home to Bowling Green on Monday.

“This is what we’ve been hoping for,” said Ronnie Carrico, a family friend who traveled to Vietnam with Bohlander and his 18-year-old son, Will Bohlander, in late March.

Carrico, a Vietnam veteran, said Edward Bohlander had long dreamed of visiting the country to take in its rich history.

“The more we talked about Vietnam the more he wanted to go,” Carrico said.

With Bohlander’s multiple sclerosis worsening, taking that dream trip became more urgent, Carrico said.

Vietnam and its friendly people did not disappoint, Carrico said.

“It was a success. No doubt about it,” he said.

But shortly before he was to finish his dream trip, Edward Bohlander slipped in his hotel room and suffered a head injury that put him in a coma.

He has remained at several hospitals since then. Bohlander’s family had been trying to bring him home but faced many hurdles, including travel insurance through Allianz that would not cover an air ambulance all the way home to Bowling Green.

Bohlander’s wife, Crystal, learned Monday that she would likely be home with her husband within the week following an update from Allianz. The news came just hours after Edward Bohlander’s plight was highlighted in a Daily News article and in an outpouring of social media support.





“Management has ... given us approval to arrange and to pay for the air ambulance to get your husband back to Kentucky,” an Allianz representative told Crystal Bohlander in an email.

Carrico and Bohlander’s sister, Gretchen LaGodna of Lexington, confirmed that the plan is to fly Edward Bohlander into Bowling Green via air ambulance Monday.

After arriving, LaGodna said her brother will immediately get hospice care. The family has chosen Hospice of Southern Kentucky as Bohlander’s care provider.

In the meantime, Carrico is anxious to see his friend again. He’s thankful for the outpouring of support from the community.

LaGodna echoed that gratitude.

“We all want to thank everybody that had some part in this,” she said.

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