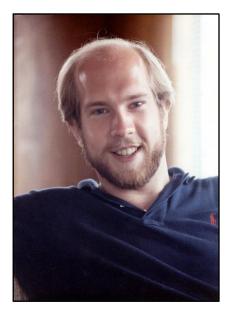
Jeffrey Robert Nylund

Census Researcher and Analyst



Jeffrey Robert Nylund Photo courtesy of David Legge.

The U.S. Census Bureau is proud of its history of working with different components of the American diaspora to ensure an accurate picture of the people of the United States. In 1880, once the Census Bureau began using professional enumerators (instead of U.S. marshals) to collect data, it sought to hire people who were a part of the communities they counted. For this reason, the Census Bureau has always embraced the hiring of a diverse workforce and census work was often one of the few government jobs open to minorities and marginalized people.

Jeffrey Robert Nylund was born on December 12, 1958, in Denver, Colorado. Jeff's parents, Harvey and Norma Nylund, adopted Jeff when

he was an infant and he remained their only child. Jeff's dad retired from the military the month following his son's birth, and the family settled in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. Jeff attended East Greenwich High School, where he participated in the school newspaper and band before graduating in 1977. He also earned the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America. Following high school, Jeff attended the University of Rochester where he made the Dean's List and graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Jeff then attended Georgetown University where he received his Master of Arts in Russian Area Studies in 1983—after which he spent a short time at Leningrad State University (currently known as St. Petersburg State University) advancing his knowledge of Russian and the Soviet Union.



Jeff as an Eagle Scout in 1977.

Rhode Island Pendulum (East Greenwich, RI),
February 23, 1977.



Upon his return to the United States, Jeff landed a job at the Census Bureau's newly established Center for International Research (CIR), which in 1983, combined the Foreign Demographic Analysis Division and the International Demographic Data Center. CIR conducted research and analysis on data produced by other countries and issued most of the Census Bureau's international data products (as opposed to the International Statistics Program Center, which focused on providing training and technical assistance to foreign countries). Jeff worked in the Soviet Branch, where he focused on the

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' (USSR) energy sector and fuel use—including oil, gas, and coal consumption and production.







Jeff's panel on the AIDS quilt (lower left), created by his friends and family.

Panel #2388, The NAMES Project Foundation AIDS Quilt Touch Mobile Web Application (accessed May 1, 2018). In his private life, Jeff lived as an openly gay man and was active in the community. Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), first identified by the medical community in 1981, had been ravaging communities across the country. The gay community was hit particularly hard. As did many other couples, Jeff and his partner were tested. While his partner's test came back negative for the disease, Jeff's came back positive. In these early days, there were few effective treatment options and HIV almost always turned into Aquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) over time. In addition, Jeff suffered from a heart condition, which made his situation even more precarious.

Jeff and his partner, Dave, did not give up hope, and even worked helping others deal with positive diagnoses. Jeff volunteered for a study at the Whitman-Walker Clinic—a

premier Washington, DC, medical establishment focusing on HIV/AIDS—in order to help find out more information in the fight against this new and deadly disease. In addition to receiving treatment, Jeff and Dave volunteered at the clinic and helped other people not only with the medical aspects of the disease, but also with the traumatic emotional impact as well.

While Jeff kept fighting, he also continued working and advancing at the Census Bureau. Following his work at CIR's Soviet Branch, Jeff transferred to Human Resources where he worked as a Budget Analyst. Jeff's coworkers remember him as kind, intelligent, outgoing, and warm someone who could make friends with almost anyone.

Through the CIR, the Census Bureau joined the fight against HIV with the establishment of the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data Base in 1987. The database provided, and continues to provide, easy access to published results from the multitude of surveys and other studies that were being undertaken at the time, along with a variety of other sources of information including medical and scientific literature, presentations at international conferences, and

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Jeff memorialized on a panel as part of the International Gay Bowling Organization.

Panel #2837, The NAMES Project Foundation AIDS Quilt Touch Mobile Web Application (accessed May 1, 2018).

the press. The Census Bureau, with the support of USAID, continues to update the database in order to assist policy makers and program planners from around the world.



Jeff memorialized on a panel (upper right) as part of his local Bulletin Board System.

Panel #2360, The NAMES Project Foundation AIDS Quilt Touch Mobile Web Application (accessed May 1, 2018).

In addition to his work at the Census Bureau, his passion for travel and photography, and his participation with the Whitman-Walker Clinic, Jeff was also active in the gay community in Washington, DC. Jeff joined the DC Sports Association, the local LGBTQ sports group, where he mostly enjoyed bowling, and eventually joined the International Gay Bowling Organization. As a film and television afficianado, Jeff joined the Scream Queens, a group for fans of B-movie horror films. Jeff also participated in a local gay Bulletin Board System—the online chat rooms, message boards, and mail systems that predated the creation of the World Wide Web. Sadly, despite his immense energy, Jeff's heart condition combined with complications from HIV led to his early death on October 4, 1989. Jeff worked at the Census Bureau until close to the very end. He was survived

by his parents and his partner, Dave, who along with his friends, memorialized him with a panel on the AIDS Quilt. The Census Bureau thanks Jeff Nylund for his contributions to the Census Bureau and the global community.