

Pass woman keeps hope alive after fiancé goes missing in Gulf of Mexico  
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By Caray Grace - email

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS (WLOX) -

Family, faith and a cell phone is about all that keep Hung Nguyen's fiancé going right now. Nguyen went missing Friday, July 5 in the Gulf of Mexico. He is a crew member for the dive vessel Epic Explorer.

His fiancé Loan Hoang clutches her phone, praying it will ring with more encouraging news about the love of her life. The Coast Guard has been looking for Nguyen 60 miles off the shore of Vermilion Bay. They have been searching for a little more than our four days.

"We don't know why he went overboard or became missing. Don't know what the sea state was that day," Coast Guard Petty Officer Bill Colclough said.

When Hoang's phone rang Friday the Pass Christian woman learned the shocking news her fiancé disappeared. Hoang has been gathered with Nguyen's family since receiving that chilling phone call. Nguyen's mother is a devout Buddhist and has dedicated much of the past 96 hours to prayer. Hoang says they are trying to keep hope alive.

"They said there's anywhere from 30 to 40 people on the boat. And they looked on the boat from top to bottom and they couldn't locate him on the boat," said Hoang.

Petty Officer Colclough said crews are searching in an area of about 2,500 square miles.

"Hopefully he's asleep somewhere on the boat, and he's going to pop up," Hoang said.

If he does, she wants her glittering engagement ring to become a wedding ring. Yet, because he's still missing, Hoang keeps sobbing, worried this bad dream may destroy the future they planned together.

"You hear about it happening, but you never think it will happen to you," said Hoang.

She described him as a funny, family man with a big heart. They grew up together on the coast. She said Nguyen has always had a love for the water.

"The Coast Guard told us they are still looking for him and they will continue looking for him tomorrow or at least until they see fit," said Hoang.

<http://www.wlox.com/story/22792489/pass-wo...-gulf-of-mexico>

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The Coast Guard is looking for a man they believe fell overboard as his boat returned to Port Fourchon late Friday night. Hung Nguyen, 36, was last seen on the deck of the Epic Explorer, a 178-foot commercial dive boat, around 11:30 p.m. on July 5.

The man is believed to have been lost 69 miles south of of Vermilion Bay. The Coast Guard activated a search operation early Saturday morning, deploying two helicopters from Air Station New Orleans and three HC 144 fixed wing aircraft out of the Coast Guard Training Station in Mobile, Ala.

The Epic Explorer, based out of Port Fourchon, is owned and operated by Belle Chasse-based Epic Divers and Marine, a commercial diving services company that provides underwater construction, repair and salvage services.

The Coast Guard is searching for Hung Nguyen, 36, who disappeared from his commercial dive boat Friday night, 69 miles south of Vermilion Bay.

US Coast Guard

The current water temperature in the Gulf of Mexico is 83 degrees, which Coast Guard Petty Ofc. Amber Menden said provides an excellent chance of survivability for a five-day period. As of Sunday evening, Menden said the Coast Guard had one helicopter and several fixed wing aircraft searching the gulf for Nguyen.

Menden did not know whether Nguyen was wearing a life jacket, a key factor affecting survivability time. The Coast Guard said the man was last seen wearing a brown shirt and blue pants.

Search efforts are expected to continue through Sunday night

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Search ends for Pass man missing in Gulf of Mexico

Posted: Jul 08, 2013 10:26 PM CDT Updated: Jul 11, 2013 4:52 PM CDT

By Caray Grace - email

PASS CHRISTIAN, MS (WLOX) -

The Coast Guard confirms its search for Hung Nguyen has ended. Rescue teams scoured the Gulf of Mexico, but they were unable to find the Pass Christian man's body. According to reports, Nguyen disappeared from his dive boat a week ago, and never surfaced.

The end of the search was a devastating blow to the Nguyen family. For days, it was

family, faith and a cell phone that kept his fiancée going.

Her name is Loan Hoang. She's been clutching her phone, praying it would ring with more encouraging news about the love of her life. When it rang on Friday, Hoang learned the shocking news her fiancée disappeared somewhere in the Gulf of Mexico. "They said there's anywhere from 30 to 40 people on the boat and they looked on the boat from top to bottom and they couldn't locate him on the boat," said Hoang.

Hoang huddled with family members since receiving the chilling phone call. Nguyen's mother is a devout Buddhist and has dedicated much of the past 72 hours to prayer.

His fiancée said on Monday the family was trying to keep hope alive. "Hopefully he's asleep somewhere on the boat, and he's going to pop up," Hoang said.

Her hope was the glittering engagement ring on her finger would be replaced by a wedding ring. As she prayed for his safe return, Hoang often sobbed, worried this bad dream would destroy the future they planned together. "You hear about it happening, but you never think it will happen to you," said Hoang.

She described him as a funny, family man with a big heart. They grew up together on the coast. Over that time, it became obvious to everyone Nguyen has always loved the water. "Coast Guard told us they are still looking for him and they will continue looking for him tomorrow or at least until they see fit," said Hoang.

That search ended at noon on Thursday. It ended without search teams finding Hung Nguyen's body.

<http://www.wlox.com/story/22788273/family-...-gulf-of-mexico>

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