



# Missing In America Project

[www.miap.us](http://www.miap.us)

## **ROLLING HONOR RIDE FROM JBLM TO WILLIAMETTE NATIONAL CEMETERY**

### **AFTER ACTION REPORT August 15, 2018**

To All Involved;

I would greatly appreciate taking this opportunity to thank each and every one who was involved with the Rolling Honor Ride last week, 15 August. It was a great ride for a great purpose. The Washington State PGR transferred the recovered cremains of 28 Veterans and the Dependent Spouses of 9 other Veterans to the Williamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. On arrival, they were met by their brothers from the Oregon Chapter of the Patriot Guard Riders, who then formed a Flag Line to honor our fallen. Working together, the PGR members, jointly, hand carried the Cremains of these Veterans to the Staff of the WNC.

A very easy paragraph to write. One more Mission to run. Everything was completed safely. However, once the factors of potential misunderstandings, possible conflicts, a very crowded I-5 and the fact that we were coordinating efforts, between many individuals who were virtual strangers, across the barrier of state lines and working with 6 separate organizations, an amazing operation occurred. As far as all the potential challenges we faced, what we received from all was cooperation, a strong "mission first" ethic and a dedication to our joint effort that was the spirit of the day.

To all the staff at JBLM, without your support a key component of this Mission would have not occurred. Our start point was the "OLD" Ft. Lewis Museum, built for the troops in 1917. The Color Guard provided by the USAF from McChord AFB, did an excellent performance with the Flag Presentation and the playing of Taps. However, to me, the absolute best came when the JBLM Police sent 2 Pickup trucks and 15 Bike riding PGR Memders (In full attire) through a Ft. Lewis Gate, during morning rush hour, in less time than a single car would usually take to enter the Fort.

On the Oregon side of the Columbia, Chris Hawes, Oregon State Coordinator for MIAP, coordinated activities with PGR and the WNC Staff and assisted with the processing of

the remains. We would not have been able to coordinate by phone all the aspects that Chris took care of.

The Patriot Guard Riders, with Lyall Smith leading the Washington contingent and Nick Kinler heading up the Oregon PGR group, performed as we expect them to, flawlessly. Their emphasis on safety, knowledge of group riding and the “esprit de corps” they brought to the table was invaluable.

Working together, the Missing In America Project teams of both Washington and Oregon, the United States Army and the staff of JBLM, and the Bi-State members of the Patriot Guard Riders all came together to make this an unforgettable, safe Mission.

***WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT,*** Thanks to all involved!

John Hundahl, MIAP Washington State Coordinator