



Missing In America Project

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**AFTER ACTION REPORT
CALL TO HONOR #18
CAPE CANAVERAL NATIONAL CEMETERY
MIMS, FLORIDA
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2019
10:00am**

The unclaimed remains for this service were located at the Cox-Gifford-Seawinds Funeral Home and Crematory in Vero Beach, FL, Seawinds Funeral Home and Crematory in Sebastian, FL, Davis-Seawinds Funeral Home and Crematory, Melbourne, FL and Baldwin Brothers Funeral and Cremation Society Central Florida locations.

At this service MIAP-FL interred 18 veterans and 6 spouses for a total of 24, which included:

- US Army – 12 veterans, 4 spouses
- US Navy – 3 veterans, 1 spouse
- US Air Force – 2 veterans, 1 spouse
- US Coast Guard – 1 veteran

The veterans served in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and other non-specific war periods. We interred a female Army nurse that served in WWI before women were allowed in the Army and she was appointed by the Surgeon General to serve. She did join the Army when allowed, she died in 1973 and went unclaimed the longest for this service. One Navy veteran served during WWII, Korea and Vietnam. One of the veteran's urn was found on a construction site, not buried. Included also was a husband that was in the Navy and his spouse and they are now laid to rest together.

In attendance was a brother of one of the Air Force veterans. This was the first funeral he has ever attended in his life, he filled out the form for his brother's niche cover.

It was a warm sunny Saturday morning, and over 275 people attended this service. There was an approximate 100 motorcycle escort led by the Titusville Police Department with MIAP Lead Rider, Brad Parsons and Tail Gunner, Jay Pannier. Paul Markonni and Donn Weaver, both MIAP Team Leaders coordinated this service together. The other team members involved in the identification of the veterans and spouses, and the service, included Sarah Breuilly, Elaine Markonni, Sharon Gilley, Diane DeLorie, and Steve Spickelmier. Certified return receipt letters were sent to family members on file, and an "Intent of Action" was published in the local newspaper as required.

This service was supported by many local veteran and other organizations which included:

- The Director, and the staff, of the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery
- Military Funeral Honors, Navy Region Southeast
- Active duty military service participants
- Titusville Police Department
- Caisson Escort, Tom and Denise Fitzgerald
- Brevard County Fire Rescue Honor Guard
- The Central Florida Woodworking Guild
- Woodcraft of Orlando and Casselberry
- Brevard Veterans Memorial Center

American Legion Post 271, Tequesta

American Legion Post 344, Merritt Island
American Legion Post 410, Rockledge
Astronaut High School Army JROTC
Cape Canaveral National Cemetery Support Committee
Cape Canaveral Ladies
Daughters of the American Revolution Florida Chapters
Indian River County Veterans Service
Marine Corp League Det. 315
Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation
Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 453
Military Officers Association of America, Indian River Chapter
Patriot Guard Riders
Rolling Thunder Florida, Chapter 1
Target Store, Titusville
US Naval Sea Cadets Corps, Confidence Division
VFW Post 12167, Merritt Island
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter, 1038, 1048 & 1096

This service was done in two parts. The first part was at the cemetery ossuary area which included the transportation of the cremains to the site on a mule drawn caisson, followed by the motorcycle escort of over sixty bikes, the procession of urns, flags and flowers carried by volunteers, an opening prayer, the parading of the colors, the singing National Anthem, the posting of the colors, the reading of the names and ringing of the bell, the volley, Taps, and folding of the Flag by a two person Air Force team, the presentation of the Flag to the brother of the AF veteran and an MIAP volunteer in the absence of family members, and the reading of a poem. We concluded this part of the service with the singing of America the Beautiful.

For the second part of the service everyone walked to the columbarium, and each decedent's urn was placed in a niche with a final salute by a member of the branch of service in which the decedent served.

Eagle Scout, Joshua Katz of the MIA-POW-OREE, along with a Boy Scout placed their coin in each niche. A final prayers was offered and Steve Spickelmier then asked everyone to be sure to thank all the active duty that participated for their service.

The service was concluded by Kathy Church, MIAP-FL State Coordinator. She thanked all who participated in and attended this service. Her last remark was "We can now say YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN."

Total time for this service from start to finish was approximately 1 hour.

Final note: We had a rehearsal the day before for any volunteers that could and wanted to attend at the CCNC at 3:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Church
MIAP – FL, State Coordinator
miapjax@yahoo.com
(904) 219-3035