



Missing In America Project

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After Action Report Utah Veterans Cemetery & Memorial Park August 10, 2019

On this date we started our journey for 13 veterans and 1 spouse at Harley-Davidson of Salt Lake (who donate space for the display of the urns). We conducted an honorable transfer of the wood etched urns (donated by Vince Smith & Family) to the waiting hearse (donated by Aspen Funeral Home). We were escorted 24 miles down I-15 and city roads by 15 motor squad officers from the Salt Lake City Police Department donating their time for this most important mission.

Upon arrival at the cemetery we were greeted by the USA (4), USN (4) and USAF (2) honor guards, a PGR flag line and many guests who wanted to see the transfer of urns into the Chapel.

People entering the Chapel – approximately 100 - received a Service Program (donated by The Print Shoppe) and viewed the 3' x 5' floral arrangement (donated by Ruth's Floral).

A Service with Full Military Honors was conducted for the following veterans and 1 spouse. Through our genealogist, we were able to find 6 families * who attended and received the flag of their loved one.

Arthur Lee Blakey (1938-2018) USA, PVT
Ronald Edward Coleman (1931-2018) USA, PFC, Korea *
Paul William Rapien (1911-1971) USA, CPL, WWII *
MaryRuth Whitehouse Rapien (1917-1976) spouse
Gordon Blake Stricler (1951-2018) USA, SP4, Vietnam *
Edgar Marshall Watkins (1956-2018) USA, PV1 *
David Henry Whittenburg (1892-1975) USA, SGT, WWI *
Curtis William Lemmon (1937-1974) USMC, CPL, Korea
Denver Robert Campbell (1906-1972) USN, MM, WWII

John Maynard Holley (1917-1993) USN, LTJG, WWII
Kenneth Paul Husnay (1942-2019) USN, RM2
Kenneth John Welch (1953-2018) USN, SR, Vietnam
John Thatcher Chamberlain (1928-1972) USAF, A1C, Korea *
Mark Wayne Dale (1954-2017) USAF, AB

At the conclusion of the Service the families also received the dog tag of their loved one.

After conversations were done and good byes were said, the American Legion Post 129 collected the flags and dog tags of the unclaimed that they put into a burial flag case and display on a wall in their Post. To date, they have delivered and presented two flags to family members who could not attend the service in CA and ID. They have presented one flag to a family member who came forward years after the service.

This was our 8th Service in the State of Utah. We have interred 141 veterans and 2 spouses.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Graves
UT State Coordinator
Region 2 Coordinator