

GREG WALDEN  
SECOND DISTRICT, OREGON



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

September 23, 2015

Mr. Frank Thieme, Jr.  
Oregon State Coordinator, MIAP  
500 Hidden Valley Rd.  
Grants Pass, OR 97527

Dear Bud:

For the past eight years, the Missing in America Project has upheld the highest values of the military and our great nation by honoring nearly 2,500 veterans whose remains and memories were forgotten by society.

Mere words cannot begin to describe the gratitude I have for what you, your volunteers, and partner organizations have done so far to adopt this mission of remembering the service and sacrifice of these once lost souls. While we cannot personally know the thirteen heroes and three spouses laid to rest this day, we can recognize their familiar stories of service from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Peacetime. We do this because they are our stories too, especially those of you who also wore our nation's uniform be it Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard. They are the stories of America.

Over 200 years ago, General George Washington said, "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in war, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by our nation." A key part of that treatment relates to our efforts to account for and recover our missing service members, whether they are lost on the battlefield or here at home.

Thank you for the noble work of the Missing in America Project. A proper burial with military honors is the very least we can do as Americans, as a community, and, at least for today, as family to pay respect to the lives these no longer forgotten veterans and show them the dignity they so richly deserve.

God bless those finally at rest. God bless you, Bud and MIAP, in your continued endeavors. And God bless the United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Walden".

Greg Walden  
Member of Congress