



Missing in America Project

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**AFTER ACTION REPORT
MIAP-FL CALL TO HONOR #29
SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY
LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2022
10:00AM**

The unclaimed cremated remains interred during this service were 22 from the Kraeer Funeral Home at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Pompano Beach, and 2 from the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department's Indigent Cremation Services.

This MIAP-FL service included the cremains of 17 veterans, and 6 dependent spouses and 1 dependent child of veterans, as follows:

- US Army – 11 veterans, 4 spouses and 1 child
- US Marine Corps. – 1 veteran
- US Navy – 2 veterans and 2 spouses
- US Air Force – 2 veterans
- US Merchant Marines – 1 veteran

The veterans served during World Wars I and II, Korea, and other non-war specific periods. The longest that any of those interred has been unclaimed is since 1961.

Paul Markonni, MIAP Veteran Recovery Team Leader, coordinated the planning of this service. Other MIAP-FL team members involved in the identification of the veterans and spouses, recovery of their cremains, and preparing for the service, included Roberta Battis, Diane DeLorie, and Jim Campbell.

Due to Covid 19 concerns and the National Cemetery Administration's current policy limiting the number of individuals that can attend services at national cemeteries, this service was limited to 50 persons not including funeral home employees, cemetery employees and military honors personnel. Therefore, the service was not publicized or open to the public.

This service was supported by:

The Director, and the staff, of the South Florida National Cemetery
Military Funeral Honors, Navy Region Southeast
Active-duty military service participants
Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Traffic Motor Unit
The South Florida Woodworking Guild and Gold Coast Woodturners
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 25, West Palm Beach
American Legion Post 271, Tequesta
Wellington South Super Target Store, Lake Worth
American Legion Post 164, Boynton Beach
Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter 133, Pompano Beach
Numerous veterans' organizations whose members were pallbearers.

This service was done in two parts. The first part was at a cemetery committal shelter and included the transportation of the cremains to the site led by the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office followed by an escort of approximately 15 motorcycles, the procession of urns carried

by volunteers, an Invocation, advancing the colors, singing the National Anthem, the reading of the names of those being interred during this service and the ringing of the bell for veterans, the volley, Taps, folding of the Flag by a two person US Navy team, and the presentation of the Flag to a member of the America Legion Auxiliary in the absence of any family members.

For the second part of the service everyone walked to the columbarium with the urns carried by the volunteers. Each urn was handed to, and a final salute was given by, an active-duty member of the branch of service in which the decedent, or the decedent's veteran spouse or child, served, and the urns were placed in the niches by a cemetery employee.

Eagle Scout Joshua Katz, the originator of the MIA-POW-OREE program, could not be present at the service, but one of the program's challenge coins was placed in each niche. A final prayer was offered, and the service was concluded by Kathy Church, MIAP-FL State Coordinator. She thanked all who participated in 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 45 minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

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