



Missing in America Project

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**AFTER ACTION REPORT
MIAP-FL CALL TO HONOR #32
SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY
LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023
10:00AM**

The 24 unclaimed cremated remains interred during this service were 22 from the Kraeer Funeral Home at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens North in Pompano Beach, and 2 from Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department's Indigent Cremation Services.

This MIAP-FL service included the cremains of 18 veterans and 6 dependent spouses of veterans, as follows:

- US Army – 11 veterans and 3 spouses
- US Marine Corps. – 1 veteran and 1 spouse
- US Navy – 5 veterans and 2 spouses
- US Army Air Corps – 1 veteran

The veterans served during World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam. The longest that any of those interred has been unclaimed is since 1965.

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, the recovery of their cremains, securing Active-Duty Military, and in the service, included Roberta Battis, Diane DeLorie, Patricia Rizzo, Jim Campbell, Pete Gilley and Kathy Church.

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 Operations Motor Unit
The South Florida Woodworking Guild and the Gold Coast Woodturners
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 25, West Palm Beach
American Legion Post 271, Tequesta
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 271, Tequesta
Wellington South Super Target Store, Lake Worth
American Legion Post 164, Boynton Beach
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 164, Boynton, Beach
Veterans of Foreign Wars Chapter 133, Pompano Beach
Numerous veterans' organizations whose members were pallbearers, or flag or flower carriers.

This service was done in two parts. The first part was at a cemetery committal shelter and included the escort of the cremains to the site led by the Palm Beach Sheriff's Office Traffic Operations Motor Unit, followed by an MIAP Lead Rider, and an escort of approximately 25 motorcycles, the procession of urns, and folded flags or flowers, carried by volunteers, an Invocation, the presentation of 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 a flag by a two person US Air Force team, and the presentation of the flag to an MIAP volunteer.

For the second part of the service everyone walked to the columbarium with the urns, and flags or flowers, carried by the volunteers. Each urn was handed to, and a final salute was given by, an active-duty member, and the urns were placed in the niches by a cemetery employee.

During a service that we had back on November 6, 2019, we interred the unclaimed cremated remains of a veteran. We subsequently found and recovered the cremains of his spouse. During this service we reunited this couple in his niche.

Eagle Scout Joshua Katz, the originator of the MIA-POW-OREE program, was not present at the service, but one of the program's challenge coins was placed in each niche by his father. 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 50 minutes.

This After Action Report was prepared by Paul Markonni.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Church
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