



Missing in America Project

www.miap.us

**AFTER ACTION REPORT
MIAP-FL CALL TO HONOR #33
SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY
LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023
10:00AM**

The 20 unclaimed cremated remains interred during this service were 19 from the Kraeer Funeral Home at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens North in Pompano Beach, and 1 from Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department's Indigent Cremation Services.

This MIAP-FL service included the cremains of 17 veterans and 3 dependent spouses of veterans, as follows:

- US Army – 12 veterans (2 of these veterans are husband & spouse) and 2 spouses
- US Marine Corps. – 1 veteran
- US Navy – 3 veterans and 1 spouse
- US Air Force – 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 1967.

During this service we interred two couples, a WWII Army veteran and his spouse, and another WWII Army veteran and his spouse who was also an Army WWII veteran.

Also, during this service, we interred the cremains of a retired Navy veteran who served in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. His cremains were found buried at a construction site, recovered by the Port Saint Lucie Police Department, and released to the VA West Palm Beach Medical Center Decedent Affairs Coordinator.

Paul Markonni, MIAP-FL 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 personnel for the service, 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

Active-duty military service participants

The 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

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 (7 Officers) 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 American Legion Auxiliary Unit Officer who represented all the families.

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.

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 for each of the interred was placed in their niches by Paul Markonni and Kathy Church. 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. Kathy also asked everyone to take a moment to thank the active-duty military personnel for their 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
MIAP - FL State Coordinator
(904) 219-3035
miapjax@yahoo.com