



Missing in America Project

www.miap.us

**AFTER ACTION REPORT
MIAP-FL CALL TO HONOR #34
SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY
LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023
10:00AM**

This MIAP-FL service included the unclaimed cremains of 16 veterans, and 4 dependent spouses of veterans, as follows:

- US Army – 8 veterans and 2 spouses
- US Marine Corps. – 2 veterans
- US Navy – 5 veterans and 2 spouses
- 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 1952.

During this service we interred the cremains of a Navy Vietnam veteran and his spouse. We also interred the cremains of a Navy World War I veteran that we recently recovered with the cremains of his spouse who we interred during a service back on November 6, 2019.

We had also recently recovered the cremains of the spouse of a Navy World War II veteran who is buried at Ft. Logan National Cemetery in Denver, CO. Her cremains were sent to Ft. Logan National Cemetery and have been interred with her spouse.

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, 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 Patriot Guard Riders

The South Florida Woodworking Guild and the Gold Coast Woodturners

American Legion Post 271, Tequesta

Wellington South Super Target Store, Lake Worth

American Legion Post 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, 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 Navy team, the presentation of the flag to three family members of one of the veterans and his spouse being interred, and the presentation of a second folded flag to an American Legion Auxiliary Unit Officer on behalf of others being interred with no family members present. Shell casings from the Volley were also presented to the family members in attendance.

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 present at the service, and placed one of his program's challenge coins for each of the interred in their niches. 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." Joshua presented the three family members in attendance with his coin.

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