



Missing in America Project

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**AFTER ACTION REPORT
MIAP-FL CALL TO HONOR #31
SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY
LAKE WORTH, FLORIDA
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2022
10:00AM**

The 24 unclaimed cremated remains interred during this service were 18 from the Kraeer Funeral Home at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens North in Pompano Beach, and 6 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 – 12 veterans and 2 spouses
- US Marine Corps. – 1 spouse
- US Navy – 4 veterans and 3 spouses
- US Army Air Forces – 1 veteran
- US Coast Guard – 1 veteran

The veterans served during World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam and other non-war specific periods. The longest that any of those interred has been unclaimed is since 1959.

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, Patricia Rizzo, Jim Campbell and Pete Gilley.

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 transportation 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 20 motorcycles, the procession of urns, and folded flags or flowers, carried by volunteers, an Invocation, presentation of the colors, singing the National Anthem, a welcome by the Cemetery Director, 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 Army team, and the presentation of the flag to a the Executive Director of the Warriors

Renewal Coalition in the absence of any family members of those being interred.

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 CTH #29 on February 25, 2021, we interred the unclaimed cremated remains of the spouse of a veteran. We subsequently found and recovered the unclaimed cremains of that veteran. During this service we reunited the veteran with his spouse in the same 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 a cemetery employee. 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. She also asked that everyone take a minute to thank all the active-duty members for their service. Her closing statement 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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