

AFTER ACTION REPORT
September 23, 2026
Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West, Hopkinsville, KY

On September 23, 2026 Missing In America Project held a service to inurn seven veterans. A final salute was rendered by the local VFW and American Legion posts in both Owensboro, Kentucky at the Haley-McGinnis Funeral Home and Bowling Green, Kentucky at the J C Kirby Funeral Home. Those present escorted the urns and flags to the hearse.

The hearses were escorted into the cemetery by the Kentucky State Police and the Christian County Sheriff. A flag detail formed by Patriot Guard Riders assisted by VFW and American Legion members, from both Hopkinsville Kentucky and Clarksville Tennessee, lined the way from the hearse to the committal shelter and then surrounded the shelter for the service.

The urns were escorted from the hearse to the committal shelter by the assigned Army, Marine and Air Force honor details along with several veterans and some Henderson County High School JROTC Cadets.

Kim Ebling, Director of the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West served as MC of the service. Don Gerspach, MIAP President of the Board, welcomed those present and spoke about the importance of the day and MIAP. He was followed by the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Whitney P. Allen Jr., Lieutenant Colonel (retired) USA, who also expressed the importance of the day and that even though these veterans were unclaimed they were not alone or forgotten and that they would be remembered for ever more.

The Chaplain, Dr Brandon Phillip Borneman, retired USA, presided over the committal service. A rifle volley was provided by American Legion Post 289 from Clarksville, TN and playing of Taps was performed by Ron Michaels, 73 year old Vietnam Army Veteran, from Fort Care (a non-profit that honors veterans, active duty and military families with support and essential needs).

The name of each veteran was read by Kim Ebling. Each reading was followed by the ringing of a bell. Flags were folded for each branch of service. The flags were presented to Kevin Kirby (J C Kirby & Son Funeral Chapels), American Legion Post 23 (Bowling Green, KY), and Maj. Bailey (Henderson County High School JROTC – ceremoniously).

A final salute was rendered by those present from the VFW, American Legion, Kentucky Patriot Guard Riders, active-duty military members, and the HCHS JROTC Cadets.

Several distinguished veterans and the JROTC Cadets escorted the urns to the columbarium where they were inurned concluding the service.

The Henderson County Kentucky High School Army JROTC Cadets honored the veterans by pre-folding the flags for the service in addition to participating in the service

The mission was a complete success due to the efforts of the entire staff of the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West and all who were in attendance.

Respectfully submitted by Fred Behnke, KY State Coordinator