



Missing in America Project
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AFTER-ACTION REPORT MIAP—Missouri Funeral Directors/Embalmers Association Convention
Springfield, MO
June 15-17, 2026

Attendees: Daniel Poirier—Missouri State Coordinator
Gina Gustafson, Region 5 Coordinator, Arkansas State Coordinator

Missouri Funeral Directors & Embalmers Association – 2026 Annual Convention After Action Report

Overview

The Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association held its 2026 Annual Convention at the University Plaza Convention Center in Springfield, Missouri, from **June 14 to 16, 2026**. The event brought together approximately **200 professionals** from across the funeral service industry, including funeral directors, embalmers, coroners, and medical examiners.

Purpose of Attendance

The convention provided an excellent platform to present the **Missing in America Project (MIAP)** to a concentrated group of industry professionals. The goals included:

- Sharing MIAP's mission and procedures
- Building relationships with funeral homes, crematories, and industry vendors
- Identifying potential cremains requiring research and follow-up
- Increasing statewide awareness of MIAP's service to veterans

Engagement & Outreach

Throughout the convention:

- A **continuous PowerPoint presentation** showcased MIAP's mission, processes, and success stories. Many attendees described it as an educational and eye-opening resource.
- Numerous **MIAP informational brochures** and **program giveaways** were distributed.
- The opportunity to speak directly with funeral directors allowed for in-depth conversations about unclaimed veteran cremains and the steps required for identification and interment.

- Several Missouri funeral homes and crematories indicated they may have **unclaimed cremains** eligible for MIAP review. These businesses will be contacted for follow-up.

Vendor Interaction

Engagement with vendors proved especially valuable:

- Many vendors expressed strong enthusiasm for MIAP's mission.
- Several requested additional brochures to distribute during their commercial visits to funeral homes across the Midwest.
- These vendor partnerships represent a **win-win opportunity**, expanding MIAP's reach far beyond the convention itself.

Impact

The convention offered a rare opportunity to connect with a large number of funeral service professionals in one location. The level of interest and support for MIAP was exceptional, and the contacts made will significantly aid ongoing efforts to locate, identify, and honor unclaimed veterans.

Respectfully Submitted

Daniel Poirier MIAP – Missouri State Coordinator

770.377.2377

Miaga30512@gmail.com



I-r. Gina Gustafson, Region 5 Coordinator,
Arkansas State Coordinator,
Daniel Poirier, Missouri State Coordinator

