



Missing In America Project

www.miap.us

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STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE #4

WORKING WITH FUNERAL HOMES

PURPOSE: To instruct State Coordinators and volunteers on approaching and working with funeral homes.

PROCEDURE:

1. Make an appointment with the Funeral Home Director.
2. Sign the release/liability form (provided in funeral home packet) and give to the funeral director. Explain the mission of MIAP i.e., we are insured, all info is kept strictly confidential; funeral home is in charge, etc.
3. Funeral home decides how and when the inventory is to take place.
4. Inventory cremains. NOTE: Any cremains awaiting death of spouse may be inventoried but not included in burial.
5. If the funeral home wishes to do the inventory themselves just let them know that you need the date of birth, place of birth, date of death, social security number and copy of death certificate. Ask that they put the inventory on a spreadsheet for easier handling.

6. Once inventory is complete and verification of veteran' status is returned from NCSEO, notify the funeral home.
7. Work with the Funeral Home Director to decide on a date for the funeral.
8. Once a date is decided upon, registered letter needs to be sent to any next of kin noted on the funeral home informing them of the burial and invite them to attend. If no NOK is listed, notice in the local newspaper is needed. A 30 day waiting period is observed allowing time for NOK to contact the funeral home. If NOK wishes to claim the veteran, they will be removed from the funeral list and the funeral home will assist the NOK. If the NOK agrees to the funeral, they will be invited to attend and presented the flag and Presidential letter will be sent to them.
9. Most funeral homes will wish to participate in the funeral. Clarification of their involvement is essential.

Questions to ask are:

Does the funeral home wish to transport the veterans to their final resting place in the closest State VA or National Cemetery? If so, invite both motorcycle veterans groups and vehicles to escort them.

Does the Funeral Director wish to speak at the funeral?

Important Information from the VA National Cemetery Administration:

<http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/funeraldirector.asp>