

## MISSING IN AMERICA



Unclaimed, forgotten...



#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

If you would like to become involved with the local MIAP effort, contact Fred Salanti via e-mail at ducpho@miap.us.

Monetary donations are also requested. MIAP will need donations to pay for fees in states where burial and transfer fees aren't waived. MIAP is a nonprofit, so donations are tax-deductible.

For more information about MIAP and Patriot Guard, visit them online at www.miap.us





THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation 1608 K Street Washington, D.C. 20006

#### **MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT**

For generations, they've waited.

Unclaimed, forgotten, silently occupying the shelves of mortuaries and state hospitals across the United States.

The cremated remains (cremains) of veterans, many indigent, many more forgotten through loss of family and friends wait for someone to remember them.

Today, the Missing in America
Project – called MIAP for short

– is seeking out what could
potentially be tens of thousands of
unburied veterans who served in
wars throughout the past century.

Their stories have begun to emerge from the shadows of society's forgetfulness. The American Legion, partnered with MIAP, want to see them honored and given a final resting place. CORRESPONDENCE No. 3

### RESOLUTION 24 ge 2 of 22

Identify, Honor And Inter Unclaimed Cremated Remains Of Veterans

Submitted by: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion is an organization of war veterans who have dedicated themselves to the service of the community, state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have served our country and, as such, deserve to be buried with honor and respect; and

WHEREAS, Since July 17, 1862, veterans have been buried with honor in National Cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, Unclaimed cremated remains of veterans are languishing on the shelves of funeral homes and crematoriums; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Missing In America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations; to provide honor and respect to those who have served this country, by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes; and

WHEREAS, MIAP does not retain the human resources to adequately fulfill the mission it has started and would like The American Legion's help and support; and

WHEREAS, Local Legionnaires can assist in locating and identifying the abandoned cremated remains of veterans across the nation and obtain the documentation on cremated remains left unclaimed at funeral homes in their local area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 9-10, 2007, That The American Legion support the mission of the Missing In America Project in locating and identifying the unclaimed cremated remains of veterans and securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

#### BACKGROUND

The movement's founder is Vietnam veteran Fred Salanti of Grants Pass, Ore. While working as a regional facilitator for the Patriot Guard Riders, Salanti became involved with conducting monthly services at regional and state cemeteries for veterans with no family and no money.

It was then that he stumbled across the unrecognized need to bury indigent and forgotten veterans, who's cremains have be languishing on the shelves of funeral homes, mortuaries and state hospitals across the United States for decades.

MIAP, with the help of The American Legion, will meet that need.

The MIAP's guidelines call for assisting funeral homes with researching all cremains in their possession to find veterans, submitting the cremain's records to the Veterans Administration Cemetery System for screening for eligibility for burial and notifying funeral homes of cremains eligible for burial.

The funeral homes must then follow requirements for submitting the cremains to a VA cemetery. From there, MIAP will coordinate a full military service with the cemetery involved.

#### **SOME HISTORY**

In a piece that won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing, The Oregonian told the story of 3,500 cremains, many of people who had been patients in the state hospital, which were put in copper, quart-sized cans and stacked on shelves in a basement storage room.

One thousand of those forgotten souls are expected to be veterans. The findings span the years from 1890 to 1971, an era that begins with the Spanish American War and ends with Vietnam.

While Oregon is the most glaring case, the discoveries are taking place around the country.

In Michigan, they're working to identify 350 sets of cremains recently discovered. In Reno, 34 unburied vets recently were discovered. Idaho alone has found and interred 91 vets.



# Missing In America Project

National Executive Director Fred Salanti 2874 Sandalwood Street Redding, CA 96001 (530) 229-9000 National Vice President Bruce Compton 2945 Sioux Avenue Redding, CA 96019 (530) 275-6964

December 27, 2010

CA County Board of Supervisors,

Since 1889, the California Legislature has supported the designation of a military veteran to be responsible for the disposition of the remains of indigent veterans or their widows. Accordingly, the Legislature established a procedure whereby the local county board of supervisors could designate a recipient for the purpose of proper remains disposition. The new code establishes procedures whereby all (not just indigent) unclaimed remains of veterans' and their dependents could be identified and designated to a Veterans' Remains Organization (VRO) for proper burial.

As of August 27, 2010 the California Military and Veterans code has been updated to ensure that all County Boards of Supervisors are encouraged to fill the job position and to provide names of cremains in their County to a Veterans Remains Organization (VRO). In the nation at this time there is only one VRO and that is the Missing in America Veterans Recovery Program (MIAP). MIAP wishes that as each county complies with the new changes that you are aware of the details of the job and that any/all appointees will need to be aware of the complete requirements to successfully complete their appointment. We are willing to answer any questions/concerns or potentially address your board upon request.

Please read the attached documents for more information:

- 1. CA County BOS
- 2. AB 1644 History sheet
- 3. Military & Veterans Code with AB 1644 updates included
- 4. BOS Agenda Draft
- 5. MIAP Flyer
- 6. IRS Ruling for MIAP
- 7. CALTRANS MIAP Encroachment permit for 2011

Fred "Ducpho" Salanti
Missing in America Project
Executive Director
Website: www.miap.us

Email: ducpho@miap.us Phone: 530-229-9000

## **CA County Board of Supervisors**

## New Changes to CA Veterans & Military Code & impact to all California Counties

Since 1889, the Legislature has supported the designation of a military veteran to be responsible for the disposition of the remains of indigent veterans or their widows. Accordingly, the Legislature established a procedure whereby the local county board of supervisors could designate a recipient for the purpose of proper remains disposition.

The new code establishes procedures whereby all (not just indigent) unclaimed remains of veterans and veterans' dependents could be identified and designated to a **veterans' remains organization** (VRO) for proper burial.

- County Veterans Advocate position as stated since 1889 is given new duties in regards to unclaimed veterans. (Ensure appointment is in place or request new appointee). Appointee must:
  - 1. Verify veteran or dependent status for all unclaimed remains with the County Coroner (submit eligibility paperwork to National Cemetery Scheduling & Verification Office (NCSEO))
  - 2. Verify that a Veterans Remains Organization (VRO) is valid in every County and respond such to all requests from requesting individuals.(i.e. Funeral Homes, cemetery authorities, government agencies) as specified in the new code. This verifies that the personnel asking for the State/VA required information in each County has the authority to receive the information and take possession of remains as may be required for funeral escort and burial purposes.)
  - 3. Authorize read only access to County Vital Statistics Death Certificate database and authority to contact VA Regional Benefits 800 number as county representative to obtain verification of veteran/dependent status and other relevant files to unclaimed veteran/dependent status as outlined in the new Veterans & Military Code.
  - 4. Investigate and validate to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors the indigent/unclaimed veteran status and validity of claims for payment of the \$300.00 State Funds to a family, funeral home or cemetery.
  - 5. Validate dependent eligibility for free burial in State or VA Cemetery and eligibility for waiver of \$500.00 spouse or dependent fee in CA State VA cemeteries.
  - 6. Complete burial and headstone details and sign for interment details at State or VA Cemetery.

#### CORRESPONDENCE No. 3 Page 5 of 22

- 7. Enter into the Veterans Remains Organization (VRO) database all information obtained in the above actions to include burial location
- County Public Administrator duties must adjusted to accommodate new requirements. (Define the duties for veterans/non-veterans requirements and who is responsible)

#### COMPLETE BILL HISTORY

BILL NUMBER: A.B. No. 1644

AUTHOR : Nielsen

TOPIC: Veterans' remains.

TYPE OF BILL:

Inactive

Non-Urgency

**Non-Appropriations** 

**Majority Vote Required** 

Non-State-Mandated Local Program

Non-Fiscal

Non-Tax Levy

**BILL HISTORY** 

2010

- Aug. 27 Chaptered by Secretary of State Chapter 189, Statutes of 2010.
- Aug. 27 Approved by the Governor.
- Aug. 16 Enrolled and to the Governor at 4:55 p.m.
- Aug. 9 Senate amendments concurred in. To enrollment. (Ayes 78. Noes 0. Page 6089.)
- Aug. 5 In Assembly. Concurrence in Senate amendments pending. May be considered on or after August 7 pursuant to Assembly Rule 77.
- Aug. 5 Read third time, passed, and to Assembly. (Ayes 33. Noes 0. Page 4371.)

**MILITARY AND VETERANS CODE** 

**SECTION 940-950** 

940. As used in this article, unless the context otherwise indicates, "veteran" means a person honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States, including, but not limited to, the Philippine Commonwealth Army, the Regular Scouts ("Old Scouts"), and the Special Philippine Scouts ("New Scouts").

940.5. As used in this article, the terms "burial" and "interment" include cremation, except that the election of the form of interment as between burial and cremation shall be made pursuant to the first paragraph of Section 7100 of the Health and Safety Code.

941. This article shall not apply to soldiers, sailors, or marines who die in the national or State soldiers' homes in this State.

942. The board of supervisors of each county shall designate an honorably discharged soldier, sailor or marine in the county who has served in or with the army or navy of the United States and who shall cause to be decently interred the body of any veteran or widow of a veteran who dies in the county without having sufficient means to defray the expenses of burial, other than moneys paid or due and payable by the United States, pursuant to the World War adjusted compensation act.

943. Such burial shall not be made in any cemetery or burial ground, or any portion thereof, used exclusively for the burial of the pauper dead.

944. In the event a deceased veteran or a widow of a veteran has been interred other than by the person designated by the board of supervisors, the person so designated may pay the sum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) toward the burial expenses of the person who would have been entitled to interment by the person designated by the supervisors.

945. The expenses to the county of each burial or contribution shall not exceed the sum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250). Claims therefor are governed by Part 3 (commencing with Section 900) and Part 4 (commencing with Section 940) of Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

946. Such claims shall be paid by the county in which the veteran or widow dies. If the decedent was a resident of any other county than the one paying the claim, the county of the decedent's residence shall refund the money advanced by the county where such person died. Such claims shall be audited and paid by the county as other accounts.

947. The person appointed under section 942, before he assumes the charge and expenses of any burial, shall first satisfy himself by a careful inquiry into and examination of all the circumstances in the case that the family of the decedent, if any, residing in the county, is unable for want of means to defray the expenses of the burial.

If he finds such inability he shall cause the decedent to be buried

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as provided in this article. He shall immediately report his action to the clerk of the board of supervisors of the county, stating all the facts and that he found the family of the decedent in indigent circumstances and unable to pay the expenses of the burial. He shall also report the name, rank, and command of the veteran, the date of death, place of burial, occupation, and an itemized statement of the expenses of such burial.

948. The clerk of the board of supervisors, upon receiving the report and statement of expenses, shall transcribe in a book kept for that purpose all the facts contained in the report respecting such decedent. The clerk, upon the burial of any honorably discharged soldier, sailor, or marine, shall make application to the proper authorities of the United States, for a suitable headstone, as provided by act of Congress, and cause the same to be placed at the head of the grave of such soldier, sailor, or marine. The expenses shall not exceed ten dollars (\$10) for cartage and properly setting each stone.

949. The board of supervisors shall perpetually maintain the grave of any such honorably discharged soldier, sailor, or marine. The expenses thus incurred shall be audited and paid as provided in

section 946 for burial expenses.

950. The person appointed under section 942 shall receive no compensation for any duties he may perform in compliance with this article.

#### **Veterans Remains Organization**

(As defined in Veterans & Military Code, section 951)

"Veteran Remains Organization" (VRO) is defined to mean any entity recognized by the Veterans Administration and the National Personnel Records Center as an organization authorized to verify and inter unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans.

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New CA State Laws mention a new organization and define a currently approved but not utilized volunteer position within each county:

"The board of supervisors of each county shall designate a veteran of the United States military or a member of a Veterans' Remains Organization as defined in Section 951, and who shall cause to be decently interred the body of any veteran or dependent of a veteran to include the spouse or the eligible dependent of a veteran as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for compensation purposes, and the unmarried surviving spouse of a veteran. This section shall apply to all indigent, abandoned, or unclaimed veterans and dependents of veterans, including those deceased veterans and dependents of veterans without having sufficient means to defray the expenses of burial, other than moneys paid or due and payable by the United States, pursuant to the World War adjusted compensation act."

So what is a VRO?

Well right now it means the Missing in America Project is the only group that can meet the qualifications and requirements as defined. All other groups that can meet the criteria are welcomed and encouraged to do so.

#### Veterans remains Organizations must adhere to the following criteria:

Maintain Liability Insurance coverage and provide the policy to each County appointed representative every year upon renewal.

Maintain training documents for courses on Privacy Act and Liability issues and keep release statements as well as safety training attendance items.

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A Privacy Act and Liability release document from the VRO will be presented to every visited cemetery or crematory authority and funeral home listing the authorized VRO members to be working. This can be verified with the County appointed representative.

Conduct all research to verify that all information obtained from funeral homes or other organizations on unclaimed remains is thoroughly checked with the Veterans Administration, National Personnel Records Center, County Veterans Service Officer, County Health Department Death Certificates, DOD databases, Social Security Death Index records and genealogy databases.

Cemetery, cemetery authorities and funeral home may at their discretion have the veteran's remains be delivered by hearse, U.S. Postal Service certified mail or released to a Veterans Remains Organization after a memorial service is scheduled and confirmed at a State or VA National Cemetery.

Issue an ID card to identify authorized individuals. Provide names and ID card number of authorized personnel to the appointed County official.

Escort personnel who accompany the funeral procession or take charge of veterans must have current training course completed with motorcycle license endorsement, current insurance and registration. Those attending local Police training have a background check and all documents on file with that police agency annually.

Produce safety equipment and standard reflective vests, lights and banners to identify escort personnel

Ensure that all riders and safety equipment is equivalent to Department of Defense standards and requirements. This includes boots, gloves, and motorcycle endorsements, insurance.

Instituted a format to notify law enforcement agencies on every escort complete with maps and directions.

Will adapt and comply with any and all requests from the County representative and law enforcement or their appointed representatives.

#### REPORT TO SHASTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT			BOARD MEETING DATE	AGENDA NUMBER
Veteran Remains Officer Designation			September 21, 2010	
DEPARTMENT	Veterans Services		Supervisorial District No.	
DEPARTMENT	<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	Pho	ne Number
CONTACT		Veterans Service Off	rans Service Officer 5	
4/5 Vote Required?	General Fund Impact?			
⊠ Yes	No General Fund Impact with the Recommended Action			
☐ No	☐ No Additional General Fund Impact from the Recommended Action			
	General Fund Impact from the Recommended Action			

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors: 1) receive an AB 1644 update and (Your County) Veterans Remains Officer recommendation, and 2) designate Mr. (YOUR DESIGNEE) as (YOUR) County Veterans Remains Officer.

#### **HISTORY**

Since 1889, the California State Legislature has supported the designation of a military veteran to be responsible for the disposition of the remains of indigent veterans and/or their widows. Existing legislation established a procedure whereby each county board of supervisors could designate a recipient for the proper disposition of remains. Due to inattention, financial limitations, or other reasons, many veterans' remains' languished on warehouse shelves, fireplace mantles, or in storage units without appropriate tribute or final farewell. The Missing In America Project (MIAP) was conceived in November, 2006 for the purpose of identifying neglected remains of our veterans and arranging for an appropriate final disposition. To date, this organization has orchestrated fitting interment for 932 veterans from all 50 states.

#### **SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION:**

AB 1644, signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on August 27, 2010, changes the California Military and Veterans Code, sections 940-950, and formalizes the requirement for a Veterans Remains Organization (VRO) to be designated by each county board of supervisors. This bill will allow prescribed entities in possession of the cremated remains of a veteran, upon the request of a VRO, to release specified information and remains to the VRO for the purposes of interment if certain conditions are met. The bill requires the VRO take all reasonable steps to inter remains received. The bill exempts from civil liability, except for willful or wanton misconduct, an entity that releases information or remains after meeting the specified conditions and exempt from negligence a VRO that receives and inters remains if the VRO does not know or have reason to know that the remains were not released in compliance with the above conditions. The bill requires each county board of supervisors to designate an honorably discharged veteran of the United States military or a member of a veteran's remains organization, who shall cause to be decently interred the body of any veteran or spouse or eligible dependent of a veteran as defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for compensation purposes who dies in the county. The bill encourages each board of supervisors to designate personnel from a veteran's remains organization for that purpose. Section 3, 950 specifies that the Shasta County Veterans Remains Officer (SVRO) will receive no compensation for any duties he may perform in compliance with this article. The bill requires specified entities to verify and inter unclaimed cremated remains of veterans in accordance with specified laws.

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Veterans Remains Officer Designation September 21, 2010 Page 2 of 2

Per Veterans & Military Code, section 951, a Veterans Remains Organization (VRO) is defined to mean any entity recognized by the Veterans Administration and the National Personnel Records Center, National Cemetery Scheduling and Eligibility Office (NCSEO), as an organization authorized to verify and inter unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans, including a member or employee of that entity. The Missing In America Project (MIAP) is the only VRO which meets the guidelines and qualifications established by this code and by the Section 3, 951 (b). Appointment of a member of MIAP to act as the Shasta County Veterans Remains Officer (SVRO), would satisfy the requirements of the new law. The Shasta County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) has evaluated, screened and vetted Shasta County VRO candidates. It is recommended that Mr. Robert Proietti be designated by the Board of Supervisors as the SVRO due to his qualifications and meeting the requirements of the position.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Eligibility for YOUR County Veterans Remains Officer selection is established by the code; however, variations in selection procedures might be considered. Selection of a candidate may be determined by committee or consensus of a reviewing team; however the final determination and appointment is reserved for the Board of Supervisors.

#### OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The (YOUR) County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) will be instrumental in selection and oversight of the YOUR County Veterans Remains Officer (SVRO). The YOUR County Health and Human Services Agency (HSSA) may be requested to furnish Vital Statistics information to the SVRO. The YOUR County Coroner's Office must ascertain that individuals scheduled for burial or interment in a pauper's cemetery are not veterans. The Coroner will verify with the VRO the veteran status of all unclaimed remains. In the event of a relocation of remains of a veteran who was improperly interred in another county, that county is obligated to reimburse YOUR County up to \$300.00 for proper interment. The Office of the YOUR County Auditor/Controller may be requested to facilitate reimbursement to YOUR County for transportation and interment expenses. The CAO has reviewed the information and concurs with this recommendation.

#### **FINANCING**:

The Veterans Service Office may incur a temporary expense for interment of veteran's remains' from other counties; however this amount is to be reimbursed by the responsible county.

Robert W. Dunlap Jr. Veterans Service Officer



### FUNERAL ESCORT SERVICE

### **CALTRANS Encroachment Permit**

No: 0210-NTK-0518 (12/31/11)

## Redding City Ordinance No. 2414 Chapter 11.48.010

It is the purpose of these permits to use the power conferred to State & Local agencies by Section 21100 (e) of the California Vehicle Code to authorize the appointment of persons other than traffic officers to direct traffic in such prescribed situations and locations as may require traffic direction for orderly flow.

## The Missing in America Project

is <u>currently the only authorized</u> group to conduct funeral escorts with permits Statewide and approved by the Redding Chief of Police. A non-profit 501 (c) (3) veterans organization MIAP is insured and offers FREE escorts to veterans families.

Other escorts are available: 530-229-9000 (Fred)

## Missing in America Project (MIAP) Funeral Escort Services

There is a reason MIAP is conducting funeral escort services. Communities utilize trained community aides and/or licensed funeral escort services, instead of police officers, for funeral escort duty. This frees up officers to do regular police work. Funerals for our fallen heroes, those killed in action, normally garner a police escort. Our veterans and those veterans discovered by MIAP do not.

MIAP has, as its approved activities, the ability to provide a funeral escort service in every state, where allowed. This means that MIAP will relieve/replace the local law enforcement agency, other than their over-sight, on funeral escorts for veterans. MIAP has in place liability insurance and is an IRS approved 501 (c) (3) registered nonprofit corporation. As you are aware, under our non-profit status, as approved by the IRS, we will provide funeral escort services to veterans at no charge.

The following is the criteria for MIAP to conduct a funeral escort service:

- The family/funeral home/chaplain may request an escort.
- For MIAP identified cremains; Authorized MIAP volunteers will coordinate with the funeral home, mortuary or wherever the cremains were located and the appropriate Veterans Administration National Cemetery to arrange for proper burial.
- MIAP Escort certified riders can be members of other groups and still be eligible for all escorts. MIAP will assume the responsibility for the safety and legality of the funeral escort through stop signs, red lights, controlled intersections and assist in route selection. It is MIAP's responsibility, as the funeral escort service, to file the proper paperwork with CALTRANS and the police agencies in which the procession will cross through.

MIAP has developed an SOP regarding escorts. Encompassed within it will be a two-hour training course that every escort rider must participate in. MIAP will issue a certificate to Escort riders upon completion of the course. We will meet and coordinate with all local police agencies to meet their requirements and state/city ordinances. This is necessary for a multitude of reasons - namely, safety of the riders in the escort, insurance purposes and to alleviate any concerns the local police department may have. We also want a standardized escort and want our riders to be as professional as possible. This reflects on MIAP as well as the hero being escorted. A list of approved funeral escort service members will be posted on the MIAP website.

Funeral Escort Ride Capt.: Mark Boehle cell: 530-351-1337

Fred "Ducpho" Salanti Executive Director Missing in America Project

#### CORRESPONDENCE No. 3 Page 18 of 22

STATE OF CALIFORNIA • DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION **ENCROACHMENT PERMIT** TR-0120 (REV. 6/2000) Permit No 0210-NTK-0518 Dist/Co/Rte/PM In compliance with (Check one): VAR-VAR-VAR-VAR Your application of September 1, 2010 Date October 7, 2010 Utility Notice No. of Fee Paid Deposit Agreement No. **\$ EXEMPT** \$ of Performance Bond Amount (1) Payment Bond Amount (2) R/W Contract No. of **Bond Company** Bond Number (1) Bond Number (2) TO: Customer Reference No. Missing in America Veterans Recovery Program 2874 Sandalwood Street Redding, CA 96001 Attention: Frederick R. Salanti Phone: 530-229-9000 , PERMITTEE and subject to the following, PERMISSION IS HEREBY GRANTED to: Perform, maintain and enforce temporary traffic control as funeral escorts for Veteran Remains Organization funeral processions, between various post miles on various State Routes in various Counties, Statewide. PERMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY: It is understood and agreed by the Permittee that utilizing this permit shall constitute an acceptance of the provisions of this Permit and all attachments. **GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS:** NOTIFY STATE'S REPRESENTATIVE: At least five working days before starting any work under this permit, the permittee shall notify the appropriate District Encroachment Permit Office from the list below, which will arrange for inspection and approval of the work covered by this permit. Additional time and requirements may be necessary for funeral processions estimated to be 10 or more vehicles. (Continued) THIS PERMIT IS NOT A PROPERTY RIGHT AND DOES NOT TRANSFER WITH THE PROPERTY TO A NEW OWNER. In addition to fee, the permittee will be billed The following attachments are also included as part of this permit (Check applicable): actual costs for: General Provisions Yes No Utility Maintenance Provisions No No. Yes Yes Special Provisions Permit Closure Schedule, T10 Inspection Yes No No A Cal-OSHA permit, if required: Permit No. Field Work Yes No As-Built Plans Submittal Route Slip for Locally Advertised Projects No Yes (If any Caltrans effort expended) Storm Water Special Provisions No Yes The information in the environmental documentation has been reviewed and is considered prior to approval of this permit. X Yes This permit is void unless the work is completed before December 31, 2011 This permit is to be strictly construed and no other work other than specifically mentioned is hereby authorized. No project work shall be commenced until all other necessary permits and environmental clearances have been obtained 1 - Permittee 1 - Kubisch, Compomizzo, Chaffin 1 - Each listed District Contact JOHN BULINSKI, District Director, District 2 1 - HQ Permits

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in alternate formats. For information call (916) 653-3657 or TDD (916) 654-3880 or write Records and Forms Management, 1120 N Street, MS-89, Sacramento, CA 95814.

DB

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STACEY BARNES, District Permit Engineer, District 2

ADA Notice FM 91 1436

1 - File

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INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE P. O. BOX 2508 CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: May 22, 2007

MISSING IN AMERICA VETERANS RECOVERY PROGRAM C/O MIAP 607 NE D ST GRANTS PASS, OR 97526 Employer Identification Number: 20-8408832 DLN:

17053075017047

Contact Person:

RONALD D BELL ID# 31185

Contact Telephone Number:

Accounting Period Ending:
December 31 Public
Charity Status:
170 (b) (1) (A) (vi)
Form 990 Required:
Yes Effective Date of
Exemption:
February 12, 20 07
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes Advance Ruling Ending
Date:

December 31, 2011

(877) 829-5500

#### Dear Applicant:

We are pleased to inform you that upon review of your application for tax exempt status we have determined that you are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to you are deductible under section 170 of the Code. You are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Because this letter could help resolve any questions regarding your exempt status, you should keep it in your permanent records.

Organizations exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Code are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. During your advance ruling period, you will be treated as a public charity. Your advance ruling period begins with the effective date of your exemption and ends with advance ruling ending date shown in the heading of the letter.

Shortly before the end of your advance ruling period, we will send you Form 8734, Support Schedule for Advance Ruling Period. You will have 90 days after the end of your advance ruling period to return the completed form. We will then notify you, in writing, about your public charity status.

Please see enclosed Information for Exempt Organizations Under Section 501(c)(3) for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

-2-

#### MISSING IN AMERICA VETERANS

Sincerely,



Robert Choi Director, Exempt Organizations Rulings and Agreements



#### VETERAN RECOVERY PROGRAM

## Missing In America **Project**

It's The Right Thing To Do.

You served your country through a war, or through peacetime. You expected to receive a military burial, recognition by our government of your commitment to our great country. You expected to have honor and respect paid to you as a result of your service to our great country. Instead, you reside on a shelf in a mortuary or a storage facility at a crematorium.



The mission of the MIAP is to locate,

identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. These forgotten veterans have served our country and, as such, deserve to be buried with honor and respect. The impetus for our fine program began in November 2006. The Idaho State Veterans cemetery interred 21 cremains of forgotten veterans, with full military honors and the dignity these fallen heroes so richly deserved. Recently, a state hospital announced that 3500 cremains were on shelves to be identified. On the shelf were cremains for the time span of the 1890's to 1971. It is estimated 1,000 of these cremains are veterans. This is happening in every state.

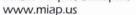
This project has just begun. We need to blanket every mortuary and cemetery in the United States and let them know there are people who desire to claim our veterans. We need to let them know it is our desire to see they are interred with the honor and respect they deserve. They served our great nation. It is now our great nation's turn to serve them.

The veterans languishing on shelves need us. They need America to step forward and ensure they are buried with honor. They need America to show their thanks for their service. Without them, we would not have the freedoms we enjoy today.

#### MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

MIAP 2874 Sandlewood Street Redding, CA 96001

Phone: 530-229-9000 Fan: 530-229-9000 Email: ducpho@miap.us







#### CORRESPONDENCE No. 3 Page 22 of 22

#### Missing in America

Emotions surround me on this day of despair At the Veterans memorial, sorrow wafts in the air We honor five soldiers and lay them to rest The armed forces tribute for America's best.

Their comrades escort them to this hallowed place
A disciplined march, in synchronized pace.
Seven Honor Guard set, arms shouldered to fire
Three shots will ring out, all meant to inspire

Each volley thunders as it moves through my soul
The flood in my eyes, I no longer control.
Softly, the bugle mourns one final song
Taps for these men, their day is now done.

As I hold my flag high, to honor these men My heart starts to ache for what gathered us in. The journey each took to this final place Is unbearably sad and should cause us disgrace.

Missing in Action, we all know this phrase A price our men pay for defending our ways. But missing at home, these men should not bear Being left on a shelf with no one to care.

Their families are absent, they don't know we're here They've left these men stranded, year after year. On funeral home shelves, their fate left unknown So our mission won't end, till all are brought home

We'll honor their service and life since the war And place them with God to rest evermore. Old Glory is folded and placed at their side We'll remember forever, Americas Pride

Missing in America, a project held dear
Will find all these men and see them brought here
They defended this Nation with courage and grit
We owe it to them to never forget

Don Blair