

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
CHAPTER 1071**

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**SUBJECT:** Update on Honors Burial to the BOD

Progress has slowed considerably by the VA Eligibility Office. I have only received one (1) approval and one (1) denial in the past 2 weeks. They say they are understaffed and over worked.

<b>RESEARCH STATUS</b>	<b>Number</b>
Approved	23
Interred	2
Denied **	4
Waiting a response	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36</b>

\*\* three were not veterans, one was not on active duty for other than training

<b>BRANCH OF SERVICE</b>	<b>Number</b>
Army	11
Army Air Corps	3
Navy	5
Navy & Navy Reserves	1
Army/WAC	1
USMC	2
Army & Air Force	1
Air Force	2
Army NG & Reserves	1
<b>TOTAL ##</b>	<b>27</b>

<b>SERVICE ERA</b>	<b>Number</b>
WWII	14
WWII & Korea	2
Korea	1
Korea & Vietnam	1
Vietnam	3
Peace	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>

## The total is based upon the known response from the VA or from Vital Records

Upcoming meetings planned on February 8, 2024, with Professor Carol Helstosky to discuss our project with her history class and a planned presentation on February 26, 2024, to Professor Helstosky's history class.

I worked with the Colorado Woodworkers Guild to establish an urn size that would maximize the best use of wood materials in crafting the urns. They are working on a goal of 30 by the end of March.

Previously research showed that we had Mary Greathouse, who was found to be already buried at Fort Logan National. I checked with Stork-Bullock and found her urn to be empty.

Also previously, Larry Zimmerman and his wife Eleanor were found to be already buried at Fort Logan National. A check of his urn did show ashes, however there were not enough for a normal human's remains. Our best guess is that when Eleanor died in 1999, her ashes were saved to be buried with her husband Larry. When Larry passed in 2004, they combined their ashes together and filled an urn that was buried at Fort Logan. There were more ashes than would fit in the urn for Fort Logan, so some ashes were held in reserve in case any family member wanted them. They were never claimed. I confirmed this with Stork-Bullock, VA Eligibility and with Edward Bremer, Assistant Director of Fort Logan National Cemetery.

We still have the unresolved case of Norman Mergler. This case involves his wife, who is already buried at Fort Logan. She died in 1986 and Norman died in 1976. Why he was never qualified through the VA is a mystery. The Eligibility Office is in a quandary concerning whether to have Norman interred with her, or separately in a columbarium as all abandoned veterans are cared for.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Bridges  
Director, Honors Burial  
VVA 1071