

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 1071**

PO Box 281023 Lakewood, CO 80228
(303) 870-2428
vva1071.org



January 20, 2024

SUBJECT: Update on Honors Burial to the membership

I am very pleased to report progress on our Honors Burial Project for the Stork-Bullock.

On behalf of the Chapter, I presented our Honors Burial Program to the Denver Woodworkers Guild on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 7:30 PM. Denver Woodworkers Guild has been providing us with hand-crafted urns since 2015. Jennifer Seim, who is now in charge of the project, asked that we present to the membership exactly what we do and the arduous process of finding and honoring forgotten veterans.

On Wednesday, January 17, 2024, I submitted an article about our Honors Burial Project to the National VVA Magazine editor Sean Venables. I'm hoping that we will be published in the January-February issue that comes out in March of this year.

For the VA Eligibility Office work we have submitted 27 names for consideration to date out of the 34 possible that we have collected. The remaining seven (7) will be submitted on January 23, 2024, at their request. They have been very slow as of late, not providing any responses since January 4, 2024. The CDPHE Vital Records searches have been completed.

Of those submitted, we have received 26 responses from the VA Eligibility Office. Of those 26, 22 have been confirmed and approved for burial at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

The five (5) that have not been approved were for the following reasons: one (1) was a reservist with the only active-duty time was for training, two (2) were rejected as not veterans, and two (2) were not approved because they had previously received approval for burial at Fort Logan.

RESEARCH

I have been submitting to the National Archives for copies of the personnel records for those that served more than 62 years ago. I have received five (5) responses, most of which had records destroyed in the 1970's fire in St. Louis, MO.

I have also done Ancestry.com searches for military information. Most of what is available is enlistment cards, nothing really to round out a story on them.

Students at DU will be taking information from me and doing searches for more information.

ODD CIRCUMSTANCES



First is Mary Dorothy Greathouse, US Army Air Corps, Sergeant, WWII, case #5020346. I have done research and found that she has a grave at Fort Logan, Section T1, Site 1295. She has a memorial on Find A Grave, #718736.



Second is Larry E Zimmerman, US Navy, AN, case #7231691. I have done research and found that he has a grave at Fort Logan, Section 26b, Site 203. He has a memorial on Find A Grave, #36126532.

In another revelation, Norman Earl Mergler, US Army was married to Madeline Louise Mergler who passed second in 1986. Norman passed away in 1976. Madeline is buried at Fort Logan in



Section U, Site 1467. The marker indicates “wife of CBM Norman E Mergler, US Navy, however we believe that we are in possession of his remains, yet they have not been interred together. There is research into this case by the VA Eligibility Office concerning the remains that we have are truly the spouse of Madeline and whether they should be interred together. A check for surviving family has turn up nothing.

OTHER ADDITIONS

We will be including in our Honors Roll Call a veteran that we acquired via the Denver Hospice. He is USMC veteran George Daniel Read. Doug Nunes attended his ceremony at Denver Hospice where “Daniel” was honored by the US Marine Corps. We have made arrangements through Brother James Hill at Denver Hospice and the Baker Funeral Home to include Daniel in our Roll Call.

I am investigating one other veteran that came through the Denver Hospice. He is Leo Henry Lehtonen. He has been a patient at the Denver Hospice and passed away in May 2023.

STATISTICS

Here is a breakdown of the branches of service and foreign wars

WWII	13
WWII-Korea	2
Korea	1
Korea-Vietnam	1
Vietnam	3
Peacetime	3
TOTAL	23

Out Of the 34 possible veterans, we know the following branches of service

US Army	12
Army Air Corp	2
Navy	4
Navy - USNR	1
US Army/WAC	1
US Marine Corps	2
US Army - USAF	1
Air Force	2
Army National Guard,	1
Army Reserves	
TOTAL	26

There are eight (8) that we do not know their branch of service if they are a veteran.

Dutifully reported.

Bill Bridges
Director, Honor Burial