

# WITH HONOR & DIGNITY

*The Interment of Unclaimed  
Veterans' Cremains*

**Willamette National Cemetery**

*Portland, Oregon*



**Saturday**

**June 1, 2024**

**10:00 AM - 10:30 AM**

**Cemetery Amphitheater**

*Rain or shine*

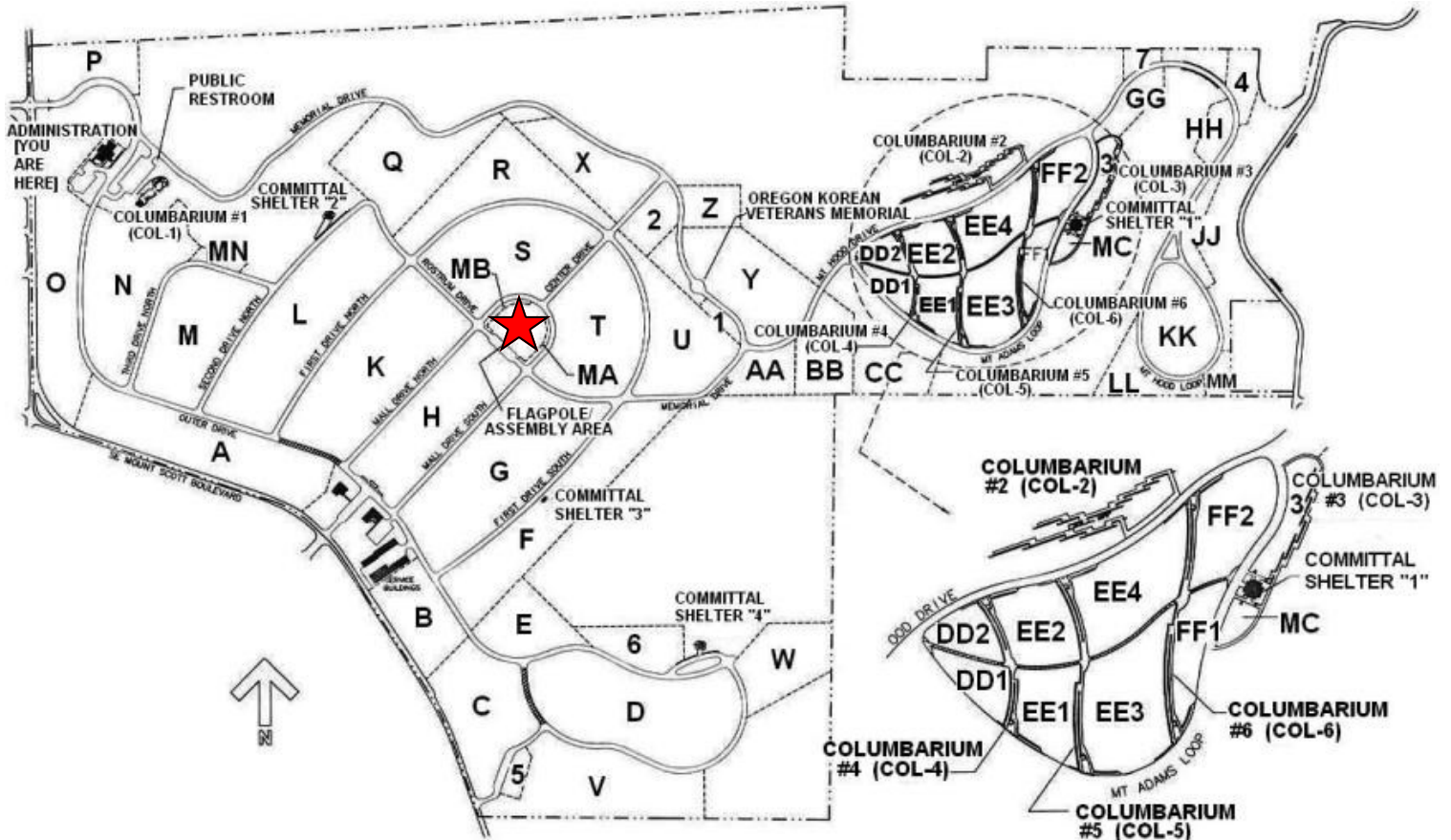
*Cremains will arrive at 9:45 AM*

Sponsored by

*Friends of Forgotten Veterans*

&

*Col. Edward D. Baker Camp No. 6  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*



**Willamette National Cemetery is located at 11800 SE Mt. Scott Blvd. in Portland.**

Head up the hill past the visitor center.

Follow the signs to the flagpole assembly area which is the amphitheater.

Parking is somewhat limited so carpool up the hill if possible.

# THE LONG ROAD TO HONOR

*by Carolyn Arntson*

Several years ago a friend who is an excellent researcher and I learned that a local funeral home had hundreds of unclaimed cremated remains, known as cremains, stored in a non-public area. Some of the cremains dated back over one hundred years. Utilizing the free web site Findagrave.com we began to build memorials for each of these people so that they would not be forgotten. We searched genealogy sites attempting to find relatives for the deceased and we were successful for some of the deceased. We built an online memorial for every unclaimed cremains that included their life histories and the documents we could find.

The project took years. We identified individuals believed to be United States military veterans and dependents of those veterans. We just couldn't let these veterans remain unclaimed and we knew the Veterans Administration would provide burial benefits if we could document military service.

Our next step was locating the actual cremains in storage. That took much time and searching. Denise Hatch joined the team here. Some cremains were so old that the paper name labels had faded to the point we had difficulty identifying the deceased.

The next step was to research and document military service and submit a claim to the VA for interment at Willamette National Cemetery. For this step we called upon the military historians of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War with whom we have worked on other projects.

We have been grateful for the help of many along the road to where we are today - the honorable dignified interment of United States military veterans and dependents.

God bless our veterans and their dependents.

We are the

***Friends of Forgotten Veterans***

# **PROGRAM**

## **Arrival of the Cremains**

*Escorted by Patriot Guard Riders*

## **Invocation**

*Lt. Col. Terry Schrick. U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Military Chaplain*

## **Acknowledgment of Attending Dignitaries**

## **Brief Remarks**

*Dr. Nekia Council Daniels  
Director, Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs*

## **Eulogy**

*Carolyn Arntson  
Friends of Forgotten Veterans*

## **Recitation of the Roll of Honor**

*Randol B. Fletcher  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

## **Floral Tributes**

*Ladies of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

## **Presentation of Funeral Flag**

*Willamette National Cemetery Military Honors Unit*

## **Benediction**

*Rev. Jadia Ward  
Bright Eyes Doves*

## **Final Salute**

*Three volley musket salute - Sons of Veterans Reserve  
Capt. Mark Stevens, Commanding Officer  
Taps - Bugler D.H. Shearer, SVR*

## **Dove Release**

*[www.brighteyesdoves.com](http://www.brighteyesdoves.com)*

# ***ROLL OF HONOR***

## **Civil War**

### **John Fernley**

1844-1930

Pvt., Co. B, 23rd Illinois Infantry

### **John Heimrich**

1846-1913

Pvt., Co. C, 180th Ohio Infantry

### **Martin G. Langguth**

1843-1931

Cpl., Co. K, 100th New York Infantry

### **Joseph C. Sawyer**

1838-1934

Capt., Co. H, 16th Vermont Infantry

# ***ROLL OF HONOR***

## **Spanish American War Era**

### **Charles G. Bowers**

1875-1950

Pvt., USMC, hospital ship USS Solace

### **William H. Conrad**

1890-1948

Musician, U.S. Army, 18th Infantry

### **Harry W. Howard**

1866-1937

Cpl., Co. I, 1st Washington Infantry, U.S. Army

### **Grover L. Retherford**

1887-1954

Pvt., U.S. Marine Corps

### **George R. Stoll**

1864-1941

Pvt., Co. H, 1st Maryland Infantry, U.S. Army

### **Arthur J. Swanson**

1863-1925

Pvt., U.S. Army, 10th Regiment, 2nd Infantry

### **LeRoy E. Torrence**

1877-1932

Pvt., Co. B, 3rd Nebraska Infantry, U.S. Army

### **George W. Townsend**

1863-1925

Pvt., U.S. Army, Co. M, 1st Infantry

# ***ROLL OF HONOR***

## **World War I**

### **William J. Backman**

1898-1955

PFC., U.S. Army, 194th Aero Squadron

### **Fred E. Failing**

1892-1929

Sgt., U.S. Army, 13th Infantry Division

### **Chester A. Fee**

1893-1951

1st Lt., U.S. Army Intelligence

### **Paul M. Fitzgerald**

1898-1951

Sgt., U.S. Army

### **Jack H. Grafton**

1893-1940

Pvt., U.S. Army, 38th Field Artillery

### **Emil Gulfi**

1889-1951

Pvt., U.S. Army, 62nd Infantry Regiment

### **Weber A. Hattrem, Sr.**

1888-1942

Cpl., U.S. Army, 28th Spruce Production Squadron

### **Harry B. Kline**

1874-1934

Pvt., U.S. Army, 321st Field Artillery

### **Winifred A. Maybery**

1877-1961

Nurse, U.S. Army, Base Hospital No. 46, France

# ***ROLL OF HONOR***

## **World War I**

**Emery W. Neale**

1894-1943

2nd Lt., U.S. Army, 42nd Infantry Division

**Carl Nordley**

1895-1958

Pvt., U.S. Army

**David Rabinowitz Robbins**

1888-1950

Pvt., U.S. Army, 380th Infantry

**Cornelius D. Scott**

1886-1965

Cook, U.S. Army, 166th Depot Brigade

**Daniel Shanedling**

1895-1928

Sgt. 1C, U.S. Army, Base Hospital No. 114, France

**William J. Sherman**

1882-1950

Gunners Mate, U.S. Navy

**Robert L. Smith**

1888-1955

Sgt., U.S. Army, 82nd Spruce Production Squadron

**Jacob B. Tarr**

1894-1944

PFC., U.S. Army, 602nd Aero Support Squadron



# ***ROLL OF HONOR***

## **World War II**

**Melvin W. Birkhofer**

1901-1957

Pvt., U.S. Army

**George A. Harper, Jr.**

1918-1958

Pvt., U.S. Army

**Curtis C. Matthews**

1914-1963

PFC., U.S. Army

**Benjamin J. McElroy**

1910-1977

CDR, U.S. Navy, USS Fallon

## **Dependent**

**Thomas J. Elliott**

Dec. 16, 1961 - Dec. 18, 1961

Infant son of Hugh D. Elliott, U.S. Navy

*Remains will be interred in columbarium number nine  
All of the deceased have biographical entries at [FindaGrave.com](http://FindaGrave.com)*

***The internment of the veterans' cremains is  
due primarily to the work of the following  
individuals and organizations:***

**Carolyn Arntson**

*Investigation and Research  
Friends of Forgotten Veterans*

**Denise Hatch**

*Investigation and Research  
Friends of Forgotten Veterans*

**Don Benson**

*Graves Registration Officer  
Col. Edward D. Baker Camp No. 6  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

**Phil Signor**

*Graves Registration Officer  
Department of the Columbia  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

**Randol B. Fletcher**

*Camp Commander  
Col. Edward D. Baker Camp. No. 6  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

**Thomas Spahr & Staff**

*Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration*

*Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUV/CW website and/or on any SUV/CW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUV/CW material.*