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.

Tax-deductible charitable contributions help MIAP pay costs in states where burial and transfer fees are not waived.

For more information about MIAP, visit www.miap.us
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 simply forgotten
by their families and friends, await
interment with military honors.

Today, the Missing in America Project –
MIAP – is seeking what could potentially
be tens of thousands of unburied U.S.
veterans who served America in uniform.

Their stories have begun to emerge
from the shadows of storage rooms.
The American Legion, by
resolution, supports the efforts of
the Missing in America Project.

ABOUT THE PROJECT
The Missing in America Project (MIAP) is a registered
501(c)3 non-profit corporation. The intent of the MIAP
is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed remains of
America’s veterans.

The American Legion has been involved with the
MIAP at the national, state and local levels. The
American Legion, at its 2007 National Convention,
sponsored the first national resolution to support the
mission of the MIAP.

The American Legion has determined that proper burial
of unclaimed veterans’ remains are part of the organization’s Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation pillar. Therefore,
The American Legion provides support and assistance
to the MIAP.

BACKGROUND
The founder of MIAP is veteran Fred Salanti of Grants
Pass, Ore. Salanti became involved with conducting
monthly services at regional and state cemeteries for
veterans without families or savings.

These services led him to the discovery of a need to
bury indigent and forgotten veterans whose cremains
have been 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, is meeting
that need.

MIAP guidelines assist funeral homes with researching
all cremains in their possession to identify veterans
and submitting their findings to the Department
of Veterans Affairs to determine eligibility for burial
with veteran status.

The funeral home or other storage facility then follow
VA guidelines for proper burial. MIAP then coordinates
funeral services with honors, working a full military
burial service with the cemetery’s participation.

SOME HISTORY
A Pulitzer-prize winning article in The Oregonian newspaper
exposed the story of approximately 3,500 cremains
that had been placed in copper, quart-sized cans and
stacked on shelves in a basement storage room.

Among them were approximately 1,000 veterans who
served in the U.S. military from 1890 to 1971, an era that
spanned from the Spanish American War to Vietnam.

While Oregon was the most extreme case, similar dis-
coversies have been made across the country.