



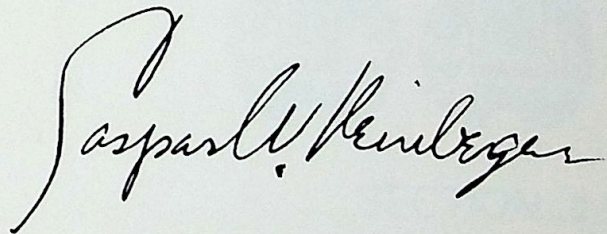
*On Memorial Day, 28 May 1984, the remains of the Vietnam Unknown were laid to rest beside the Unknowns of World War I and II and Korea at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.*

## Foreword

On Memorial Day 1984, the Unknown American who lost his life in the service of his country during the war in Vietnam joined the Unknowns from World War I, World War II, and the Korean War in Arlington National Cemetery. Representing the more than 57,000 servicemen and women who died or are still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, the hero was accorded a state funeral befitting the Nation's Great and presented the Medal of Honor by the President of the United States.

The following word-and-picture history depicts the planning and execution of the Vietnam Unknown's final journey. All branches of the military cooperated in the preparations with the Department of the Army as the executive agent for the Department of Defense. The arrangements for the interment ceremonies at Arlington were handled by the Military District of Washington.

It is my hope that these honors have brought solace to all those Americans who have lost loved ones, killed or missing, in Vietnam, and that these honors will renew the spirit of dedication that has always been a mark of the American character.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Caspar W. Weinberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'C'.



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SECTION I



HISTORICAL  
REVIEW

1870

JACOBSON  
WEBER



## Precedents

On 28 May 1984, the remains of an unknown American serviceman of the Vietnam War were laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Entombed beside the Unknowns of World Wars I and II and the Korean War, the serviceman became the representative of all who had died or were still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia and a symbol of his nation's sorrow and gratitude.

The practice of honoring the dead and missing in battle goes back to ancient times. The Greek historian Thucydides relates that during the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta the people of Athens honored their dead, as had their ancestors, with a great funeral procession at which they reserved one empty bier to symbolize those of the fallen who were missing. The custom revived in Europe at the end of World War I. On the second anniversary of the armistice ending that conflict, 11 November 1920, England and France dedicated tombs to the memory of their missing and unidentified dead. Although other Allied nations followed with similar ceremonies, the United States held back until the U.S. Army's Graves Registration Service identified most of the American dead. On 4 March 1921 Congress approved the construction of a simple tomb in Arlington Cemetery and the return for suitable honors of an unknown American serviceman killed in France. The ceremonies consecrating the memorial took place on 11 November of that year. President Warren G. Harding presented the Medal of Honor to the Unknown and delivered a eulogy.

Congress approved the designation of an Unknown Soldier for World War II on 24 June 1946. Leaving five years for the Graves Registration Service to do its work thoroughly, the lawmakers prescribed 30 May 1951 as the date for the burial. Planning began immediately for an expansion of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, but when the Korean War broke out in November 1950, President Harry S. Truman postponed the interment. The project lay dormant



until 1955, when Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, at the urging of the American Veterans of World War II, directed the Army to proceed. As planning for the project progressed, Congress passed a bill on 3 August 1956 providing for the selection and simultaneous burial of an Unknown Soldier for the Korean War.

The ceremony marking the interment of the two Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery occurred on Memorial Day, 30 May 1958. Both had lain in state since 28 May in the Rotunda of the Capitol at Washington before traveling by caisson to Arlington Cemetery, where President Dwight D. Eisenhower awarded each the Medal of Honor. After a solemn military service both were laid to rest beside the Unknown Soldier of World War I.



## The Directive

On 18 June 1973, shortly after the last American troops withdrew from South Vietnam, Congress directed the Secretary of Defense to select the remains of an unidentified American serviceman killed in the war for burial in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington. It seemed reasonable that among all the casualties of the war the military services would find an Unknown, but scientists at the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory at Honolulu had managed to name all but a few of the American dead and remained confident that they would ultimately identify the rest.

Complicating the process of selection was the fact that the government of Vietnam had failed to render a full accounting of the hundreds of American servicemen who were known to have fallen into its hands during the war. Over the years, the families of those servicemen had pressed for some official word of their relatives' fate, and they objected to the declaration of an Unknown for the Vietnam War on the grounds that the act would almost certainly diminish

official efforts to recover the missing — in effect, symbolizing to all concerned that the war was over and that the issue was no longer important. In addition, they understandably sought assurances that the individual to be interred was truly unidentifiable. In 1982, those families convinced the administration of President Ronald Reagan to postpone selection of an Unknown on grounds that the few bodies that remained unnamed might still be identified. By 1984, however, with all possibilities exhausted, the Central Identification Laboratory concluded that one of the two sets of remains still in its possession would never be identified. After close consultation with the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, President Reagan decided to go ahead with the designation and interment of an Unknown. He assured the families that the ceremony would not close the book on the POW/MIA issue.

On 13 April 1984, Secretary of Defense Caspar W. Weinberger announced the decision to proceed, stressing that the Reagan administration would continue its efforts to gain the fullest possible accounting for those still missing to end the uncertainty for their families. Although the occasion would be of great significance to Americans, especially to those who had served in Vietnam, he said, "We must remember, there are almost 2,500 Americans still missing in Southeast Asia. For their families, the uncertainty and the pain continues. Our duty to them should be strengthened by this ceremony. The resolution of the fate of those gallant men still missing is, as the President has stated, a matter of highest national priority."



## Resumption of the Project

In announcing resumption of the project, Secretary Weinberger set Memorial Day, 28 May 1984, as the date of interment for the Unknown and desig-

nated the Department of the Army as his executive agent. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, William R. Gianelli, provided oversight for the Secretary of the Army, John O. Marsh, Jr., while the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington, Maj. Gen. John L. Ballantyne, made the necessary arrangements. Serving as point of contact for all the agencies involved in the funeral, Ballantyne's Director of Ceremonies, Paul C. Miller, assisted by Lt. Col. Thomas L. Groppe and James L. Albright, prepared the plans and supervised the conduct of the services.

Beginning in Hawaii, proceeding to California, and culminating in Washington, D.C., the funeral was to draw upon the resources of each of the United States' military services. After formal designation in Hawaii on 17 May, the Unknown would travel from Honolulu to San Francisco aboard the U.S. Navy frigate U.S.S. *Brewton*, which had been named for a hero of the Vietnam War, Lt. (jg.) John C. Brewton. The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Storis* would serve as escort during the first fifty miles of the journey; the cutter *Midget* would take up position beside the *Brewton* fifty miles off the coast of California. Arriving at Alameda Naval Air Station in Alameda, California on 24 May, the *Brewton* would transfer the remains to shore units, which would convey them by cortege to the chapel at Travis Air Force Base. After a brief period of public viewing, they would travel by air to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. The Unknown would then lie in state for three days in the Capitol at Washington before interment at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

Unparalleled since the funeral of President John F. Kennedy in 1963, the observances required extensive preparations. Before the formal announcement, the Military District of Washington received advance word that the Department of Defense might shortly designate an Unknown for the Vietnam War. Preparations began immediately, especially within the command's Directorate of Ceremonies and Special Events, where James Albright drafted a plan for the interment, and its office of communications, which had responsibility for providing radio and telephone circuits to support the operation. In January 1984, the command's Office of Resources Management set aside \$30,000 as a contingency fund to cover initial expenses.

Shortly after Secretary Weinberger announced plans for the funeral, the Defense Department decided to give the national commanders of the major American veterans organizations the opportunity to take the place of the fam-

ily of the deceased in the services, a very great honor. The Veterans Administration received the task of assuring that veterans organizations were properly represented. It delegated the effort to the President's Veterans Day National Committee, a group composed of the national commanders of all the major veterans organizations in the United States. The committee decided to invite the members of its executive board to participate. They represented the Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, the Blinded Veterans Association, the American Legion, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of World War I of the USA, the Marine Corps League, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Legion of Valor, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, the Disabled American Veterans, and the American Ex-Prisoners of War. In addition, representatives from five national organizations whose membership had been intimately involved in the Vietnam War were invited. They were the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, the American Gold Star Mothers, Gold Star Wives of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the United Vietnam Veterans Organization. The National League of Families declined to participate officially but allowed its members to join in the observances if they wished. Many did attend.

Preparations began in earnest shortly after Secretary Weinberger's formal announcement. During the first week of May, the House and Senate issued legislation authorizing the Military District of Washington to use the Capitol Rotunda for the lying in state. At the request of the secretaries of the military departments, they also approved the award of the Medal of Honor to the Unknown in honor of the unrecognized heroism of all the missing and dead. Workmen at Arlington Cemetery meanwhile refurbished the tombs of the earlier Unknowns and erected scaffolding at the Memorial Amphitheater for a press stand. Planting more than 5,000 bedding flowers around the amphitheater, the cemetery's gardeners manicured lawns, planted extra shrubs, and trimmed trees. Since space in the amphitheater was limited to invited guests and since no more than 3,000 persons could view the ceremony from the mall adjacent to the Tomb of the Unknowns, the cemetery's staff attempted to accommodate any overflow that occurred by awarding a contract for live video coverage of the event and for the erection of a twenty-by-thirty-foot viewing screen at the cemetery's visitors center. On 23 May, a stonecutter inscribed the date 1958-1975 on a marble cover that had already been prepared to mark the grave of the Unknown.

The Military District of Washington's Public Affairs Office meanwhile reserved space at the cemetery's old administration building to serve as a temporary center for processing the credentials of the press. In the weeks that followed, command public affairs officers traveled to California and Hawaii to coordinate with their counterparts in those areas, provided for comprehensive photographic coverage, assembled a press kit for civilian newsmen containing extensive background information, designed and printed a program, disseminated twenty-two press releases, and answered more than a thousand queries from newsmen. As a result, on the day of the interment, 800 reporters and cameramen covered the event in all of its phases without complications.

With many members of the public interested in attending the ceremonies but with seating in the amphitheater limited to public officials, Medal of Honor winners, representatives of the Military services, and the families of those still missing in Vietnam, only seventy-seven tickets were available for general distribution. On 14 May, the Office of the Adjutant General of the Military District of Washington set up a clearinghouse to process requests for those seats. Over the next eleven days, the facility responded to 253 calls and letters, awarding tickets first to the families of the missing, then to widows with husbands buried in Arlington National Cemetery, and finally to Vietnam veterans.

By the third week in May, rehearsals had commenced and preparations for the ceremonies in Hawaii, California, and Washington were well advanced. Technicians had augmented telephone service wherever necessary within the Military District of Washington and they were prepared to put eighteen radio nets totaling 159 stations on the air in support of security operations, medical emergency teams, the funeral cortege, the ushers at the amphitheater, and the officials coordinating the services. The command's transportation unit had meanwhile leased fifty-three buses to shuttle visitors between the Pentagon parking lot and the Tomb of the Unknowns, nine vans to accommodate the handicapped, and eighty sedans for the funeral cortege. To meet possible medical emergencies, first aid teams manning twenty-five ambulances had meanwhile selected stations at the U.S. Capitol and along the line of procession. In all, the Military District of Washington spent \$85,000 on preparations, most of it for vehicle leases, supplies, construction, and travel. Much of the rest of the funding for the event came from the normal operating budgets of the military services.



## Designation Ceremonies

The ceremonies honoring the Vietnam Unknown began in Hawaii on 17 May 1984 with the arrival of the remains by hearse at Bravo Pier 25, Pearl Harbor Naval Base. One hundred and eighty members of the military services stood at attention to receive the casket, all in duty uniform except for a platoon of U.S. Army troops from Schofield Barracks in full combat gear. The vessels in the harbor nearby wore full dress ship, a rainbow of signal flags flying fore and aft the length of each. Several hundred visitors were in attendance.

A joint service team of pallbearers carried the flag-draped casket to its resting place at the head of the assembly. After an invocation by a Jewish chaplain and a rendition of the National Anthem by the Fleet Marine Force Pacific Band, the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Admiral S. R. Foley, Jr., delivered a brief eulogy. "Our unknown hero . . . represents the finest of that generation who went to a far off land to fight for the ideals of freedom and human dignity," Foley said, "because it was not in their make up to say, 'No, we won't go.'" At the end of Foley's remarks, after a prayer by a Catholic chaplain, Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient, Sgt. Maj. Allan J. Kellogg, Jr., of Marine Barracks Hawaii, placed near the casket a white carnation wreath inset with yellow, red, and green flowers in the design of the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon. The Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces, Gen. Jerome F. O'Malley, then placed the Purple Heart on a black pedestal near the coffin. Musical honors, a 21-gun salute and a flyover by Hawaii Air National Guard F-4C aircraft in "missing man formation" followed, along with a final benediction by a Protestant chaplain. At the conclusion of the prayer, as the assembled troops saluted and the band played Chopin's mournful "Funeral March," the

pallbearers carried the casket up a ramp to the *Brewton*. Six minutes later, while the band played "America the Beautiful" and all the ships in Pearl Harbor rendered passing honors — each crewman standing at attention and holding a hand salute — the *Brewton* cast off for San Francisco in the company of the Coast Guard cutter *Storis*.



## The Trip to Washington

Seven days later, at noon on 24 May, escorted by the Coast Guard cutter *Midget*, the *Brewton* docked at the Alameda Naval Air Station. While a military band played a hymn and a 21-gun salute fired, a joint service team of pallbearers, preceded by the American flag and members of the clergy, carried the casket to a waiting hearse for the trip to Travis Air Force Base outside Sacramento. At Travis, the pallbearers transferred the remains in solemn procession to the base chapel, where it lay in repose all night. Protestant, Jewish, and Catholic chaplains offered short prayers, with the Jewish chaplain, Navy Lt. Norman L. Auerback, observing in the place of the Unknown that, "My death is not mine, it is ours. It will mean what you make of it." A guard of honor then took up station around the casket, which remained on public view until the next morning, when, after a simple ceremony, it was transferred to a U.S. Air Force C-141B aircraft for the trip to Washington.

The body of the Unknown serviceman arrived at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington at 2 P.M. on 25 May, where it was greeted by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the national commanders of various U.S. veterans organizations, and the former U.S. Commander in Vietnam, General William C. Westmoreland. To the accompaniment of four "Ruffles and Flourishes" and a hymn played by the U.S. Air Force Band, with a 21-gun salute in the background, pallbearers carried the casket to a hearse for the trip to Washington. Arriving at the Capitol

Plaza at 3 P.M., the party moved solemnly up the East Capitol steps into the Rotunda, where President Ronald Reagan waited along with members of the cabinet, Congress, and other dignitaries. A brief wreath-laying ceremony followed, during which the president delivered a eulogy. Observing that the Unknown symbolized "the heart, soul, and spirit of America," he said that, "We may not know of this man's life, but we know of his character. We may not know his name, but we know his courage. He accepted his mission and did his duty. And his honest patriotism overwhelms us." The body lay in state in the Rotunda for the next three days, to be viewed by tens of thousands of visitors.



## The Funeral

The vigil at the Rotunda lasted until noon on Memorial Day, Monday, 28 May. As the national commanders of the veterans organizations, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other mourners waited in the East Capitol Plaza under cloudy skies, pallbearers carried the casket down the Capitol steps to a caisson drawn by six matched white horses. Troops at Fort McNair began firing a 21-gun salute at one minute intervals. The U.S. Coast Guard Band played four "Ruffles and Flourishes" and the hymns "Yigdahl Eloheem Chahi" (Great Is Our Living God) and "Ah-dohn Oh-lom" (Lord of the World).

The main funeral procession was composed of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force Bands; units from all of the services and service academies; and elements from the National Guard and Reserves. A cordon of honor composed of 1,750 men and women representing, once again, all of the military services lined both sides of the route to Arlington National Cemetery. Its members came to "present arms" when the color guard bearing the American flag reached their positions, returning to "order arms" once the caisson bearing the Unknown had passed. When the cortege reached the Vietnam Veterans



Memorial on Bacon Drive, it stopped for an instant to receive the homage of fifty-six veterans of the war bearing the flags of all the states and territories of the United States. Rounding the Lincoln Memorial and crossing Memorial Bridge, the procession then entered Arlington Cemetery, where the president and other dignitaries waited at the Memorial Amphitheater. Although veterans of the war were represented in every aspect of the program — Medal of Honor recipients from the Vietnam War, for example, served as honorary pallbearers — a group of 300 veterans insisted on falling in behind the procession. Dressed in combat fatigues and marching to the accompaniment of a bagpiper playing the hymn "Amazing Grace," they became a reminder, however subdued, of the protests that had once seemed as much a part of the Vietnam War as the effort to defeat the enemy.

The cortege arrived at the west entrance of the Amphitheater at 2 P.M. After the funeral party had been seated, the Army Band played four "Ruffles and Flourishes," the signal for the pallbearers to carry the casket into the Apse of the building. The National Anthem followed, along with an invocation by the Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Army, Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Hessian. A marine trumpeter then sounded the call "Attention." After a moment of silence and a rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" sung by everyone in the Amphitheater, Secretary Weinberger introduced President Reagan.

Observing that the Unknown Soldier was a symbol of all the American servicemen still missing in Vietnam, President Reagan reminded his listeners in the Amphitheater, across the United States, and around the world that "We close no books. We put away no final memories. An end to America's involvement in Vietnam cannot come before we've achieved the fullest possible accounting of those missing in action." Turning to the Unknown, the president continued that the man\* had died fighting for human dignity and for free men everywhere and that "Today we embrace him and all who served us so well in a war whose end offered no parades, no flags, and so little thanks." President Reagan then presented the Unknown with the Medal of Honor "for service above and beyond the call of duty — in action with the enemy during the Vietnam era."

\*All the women who served in Vietnam were accounted for.

The funeral service continued with an a capella rendition of the hymn "On Bended Knee" by the U.S. Army Chorus; a reading of Psalm 91 — "O Thou that dwellest in the covert of the Most High . . ." — by the Director, Chaplains Service, Veterans Administration, Rabbi Simeon Kobunetz; and the singing of Randall Thompson's "The Last Words of David" by U.S. Army Chorus soloist M. Sgt. Michael Miller. The Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy, Rear Admiral Neil M. Stevenson, followed with a reading from the New Testament, John 14, "Let not your hearts be troubled . . ." The service ended with the singing of Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd . . ." by the U.S. Army Chorus and a brief blessing by Capt. Robert M. Radasky of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps.



## The Interment

At the conclusion of the blessing, the president, the honorary pallbearers, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a number of dignitaries and guests proceeded into the Display Room until invited guests moved from the Amphitheater to the East Steps. The pallbearers then began moving the casket to the plaza east of the Amphitheater where the Tomb of the Unknowns is located. When the casket reached the second landing leading to the plaza, the pallbearers paused while Col. Robert G. Krause, the commander of the honor guard, brought his troops to "present arms" and the U.S. Army Band played four "Ruffles and Flourishes" and the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy." Upon completion of the music, the procession moved forward into the plaza, where the pallbearers placed the casket on the lowering device above the crypt. After chaplains representing the Jewish, Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant religions read the graveside prayers customary to their faiths, the president placed a wreath at the head of the casket. A 21-gun salute followed, fired by the Saluting Battery of the 3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard).

The Chaplain, U.S. Coast Guard, Capt. Eddy B. Moran, gave the blessing. "Lord," he prayed, "we ask Your final benediction upon our comrade, known but to You. As we have honored him, we also honor all men and women who have served their country with loyalty and devotion." At the conclusion of the prayer, three rifle volleys and the bugle call "Taps" sounded. While the band played "America the Beautiful," the pallbearers folded the flag that had covered the casket from the beginning of its journey in Hawaii. The escort commander, Major General Ballantyne, then presented the flag to the president, who stood in the place of the Unknown's next of kin. He passed it to Raymond J. Costanzo, the superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, for safekeeping.

With that the ceremonies ended. Members of the public who wished to pay their respects to the Unknown filed past the crypt until evening, when the cemetery closed. At 8:30 P.M., the superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, accompanied by the commanding general of the Military District of Washington, lowered the casket into the crypt. Shortly thereafter workmen set the vault cap and crypt cover in place. By 11:30 P.M. all work was done. The Unknown was at rest.

SECTION II



PICTORIAL  
REVIEW



*On 17 May 1984 at Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Honolulu, Hawaii, Gen. Jerome F. O'Malley, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces, and Sgt. Maj. Allan J. Kellogg, Jr., of Marine Barracks Hawaii and a holder of the Medal of Honor, salute the casket of the Vietnam Unknown during designation ceremonies.*



*F-4C Aircraft from the 199th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Hawaii Air National Guard, pass in review in, "missing man formation", during designation ceremonies in Hawaii.*



*Joint Service Pallbearers carry the flag-draped casket aboard the frigate U.S.S. Brewton for the voyage to San Francisco. Crewmen stand at attention in salute.*

*With the casket of the Unknown aboard and the frigate's crewmen lining its deck, the Brewton departs Hawaii for Alameda Naval Air Station in San Francisco, the first leg of its trip to Washington, D.C.*





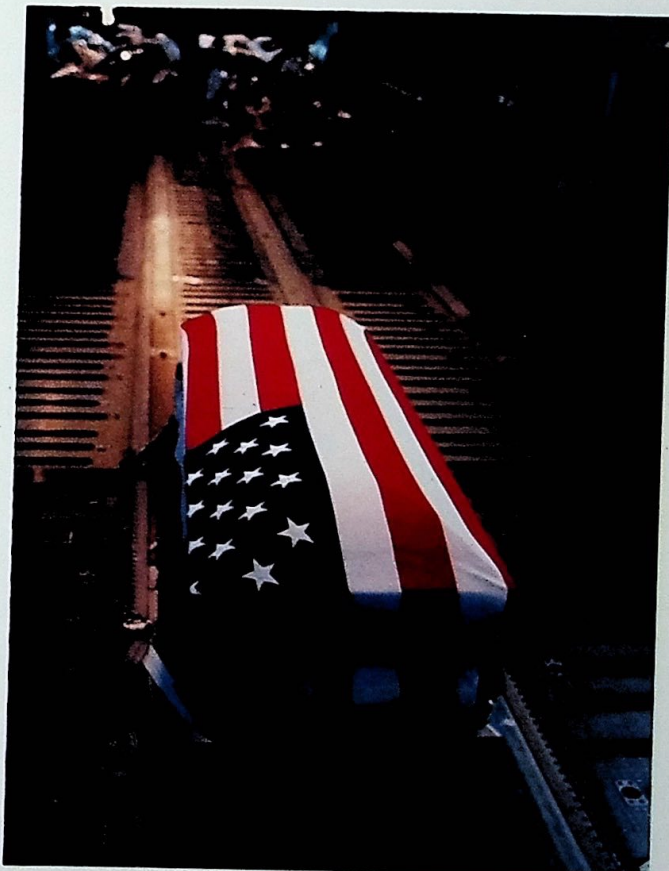
*A crewman keeps watch beside the casket of the Unknown as the Brewton nears San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.*



*Upon arrival at Alameda Naval Air Station on 24 May, the Unknown is borne from the Brewton to a funeral hearse for the trip to Travis Air Force Base, California.*



*Lying in repose and surrounded by a joint service guard of honor in the chapel at Travis, the Unknown remained on public view until the morning of 25 May, when the casket was flown to Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland.*



*Aboard a C-141B at Travis, the casket is secured in the cargo bay for the flight to Andrews, the final transfer point on its trip to Washington.*

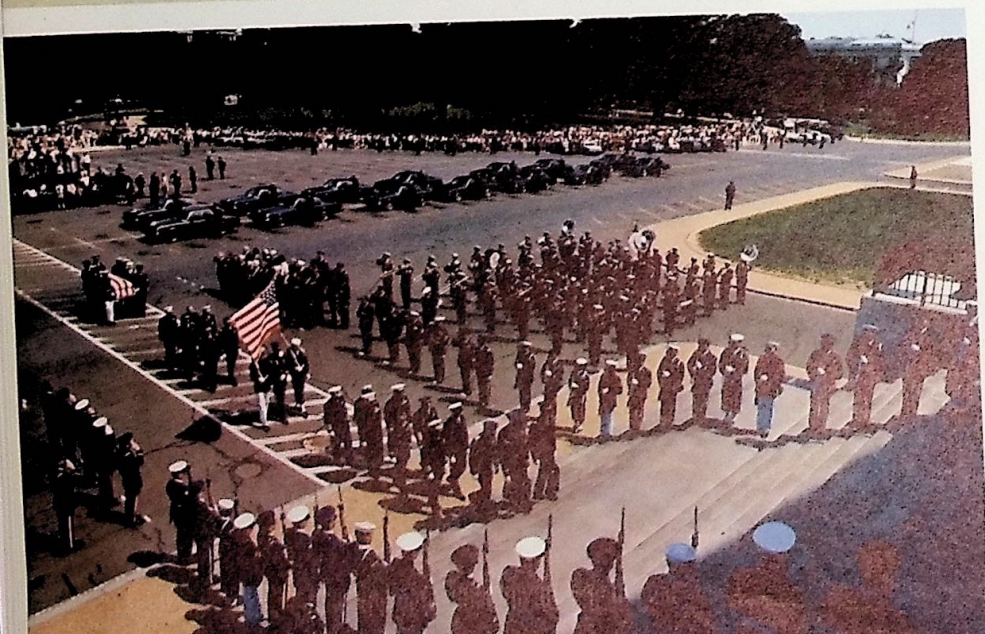




At the end of arrival ceremonies at Andrews, the Unknown's casket is transferred by pallbearers to a waiting funeral hearse for the trip to Washington. The Air Force Band plays and other military members "present arms" and salute.



Hon. Harry N. Walters, Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Administration, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the former U.S. Commander in Vietnam (front row, 2d and 3d from the right); and the national commanders of various U.S. veterans organizations, flanked by members of the military, greet the Unknown when the casket arrives at the Capitol.



A special honor guard comprised of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and led by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. John W. Vessey, Jr. approaches the East Capitol steps.



*In the Capitol Rotunda where the body would lie in state until Memorial Day, 28 May 1984, officials witness the ceremonies in honor of the Unknown.*



*President Ronald Reagan, Congressman John P. Murtha of Pennsylvania, and many other civilian and military dignitaries pay their respects to the Unknown during wreath-laying ceremonies in the Rotunda.*

*Surrounded by the Guard Of Honor the body of the Unknown lies in state in the Rotunda.*





Memorial Day, 28 May 1984. The caisson bearing the casket of the Unknown begins the trip to Arlington National Cemetery. Thousands of spectators line the streets of Washington.

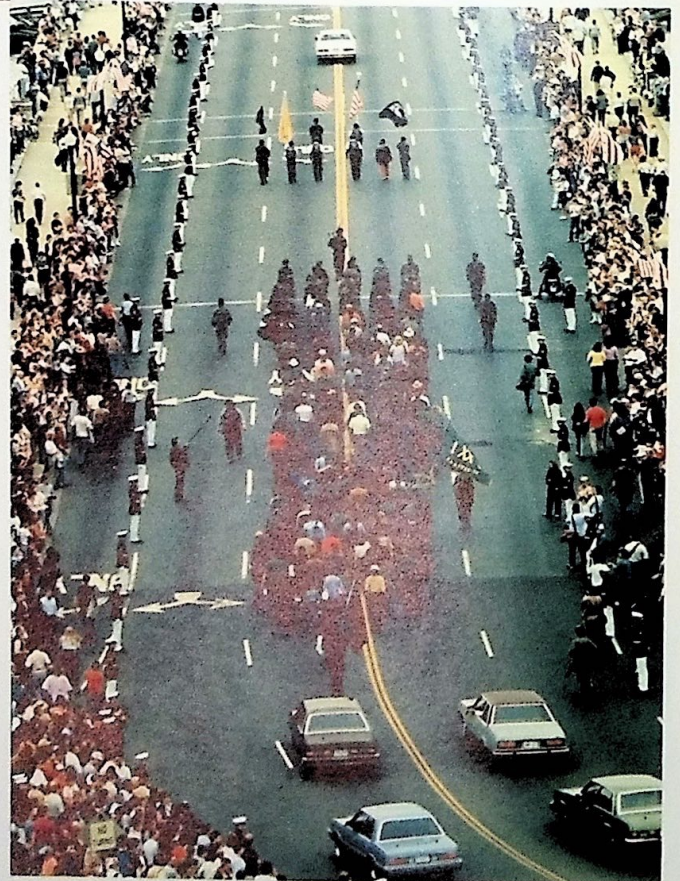
Veterans Of Vietnam dip the flags of all the states and territories of the United States in salute to the Vietnam Unknown during a pause in the funeral procession at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.





*Crossing Memorial Bridge, the procession nears the gate of Arlington National Cemetery.*

*Vietnam Veterans, dressed in combat fatigues and marching to the music of a bagpiper, fall in behind the funeral procession.*





*The funeral procession arrives at the West Entrance to the Memorial Amphitheater in Arlington Cemetery where President Reagan and many other dignitaries await the arrival of the Unknown.*

*The Amphitheater at the beginning of the ceremonies honoring the Unknown.*





*President Reagan presents the Medal of Honor to the Unknown. Pallbearers then transferred the casket to the Tomb of the Unknowns on the plaza to the east of the Amphitheater.*

*Pallbearers fold the flag covering the casket of the Unknown following a wreath-laying ceremony and a 21-gun salute.*



*Maj. Gen. John L. Ballantyne, the commanding general of the Military District of Washington, presents the flag from the casket to President Reagan, who stood in place of the Unknown's next of kin.*



*"Here rests in honored glory an American soldier, known but to God."*







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APPENDIX

# The Proclamation

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## Return and Final Interment of Unknown American Killed in Vietnam

*By the President of the United States of America*

A Proclamation

On this Memorial Day, the remains of an unknown American who gave his life in service overseas in Vietnam will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery.

The casket of this unknown American will arrive in the City of Washington on May 25, 1984, to lie in state in the rotunda of the United States Capitol until final interment.

The individual who finds his last resting place at Arlington on this occasion will be nameless to the entire world. But to the generations of Americans who left their homes and families to fight and defend the freedom and independence of our Nation, he will be known well by his embodiment of that most noble of all sentiments — patriotism.

There will be families from across the land who will come to view this place. To them it will mean that their son, husband, or father rests before them. And, in spirit, it will be true. For they, as we, know him well as one who, as Lincoln said at Gettysburg, gave his "last full measure of devotion."

As we work to preserve that for which he struggled, let us equally dedicate ourselves to the peace we yearn for in our hearts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby direct that the flag of the United States be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions, when customarily flown, on May 25, May 26, May 27, and May 28, 1984. I also direct that the flag be flown at half-staff for the same period at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

As a sign of our national gratitude and concern, I also urge my fellow citizens to display our country's flag at half-staff at their homes and other appropriate places during this period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighth.

Ronald Reagan

# The Directive

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

13 APRIL 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam Era

In 1973, Congress directed the Secretary of Defense to inter the remains of an Unknown Serviceman from the Vietnam era in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. We have attempted to identify all remains from the Vietnam era and to the good fortune of many families we have been very successful.

Following an exhaustive effort to identify the few unidentified remains, we now have a remains which is qualified for the Vietnam Unknown. I am pleased to inform you that we intend to proceed with the interment of the Vietnam Unknown on Memorial Day, May 28, 1984.

The Army is to continue as the lead Service for this matter with the involvement of all the Armed Services. Please give the Army your fullest cooperation for this extremely important event.

In our public relations on this matter we should assure the public that the interment of a Vietnam Unknown will not result in a diminution of efforts to resolve the fate of those Americans still missing in Southeast Asia.

Caspar W. Weinberger

## Some Participants

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### VETERANS DAY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS IN VIETNAM UNKNOWN CEREMONIES - MAY 25-28, 1984

Honorable Harry N. Walters, Administrator of Veterans Affairs; Chairman,  
Veterans Day National Committee

Mr. E. Earl Derrington, Jr., National Commander, American Ex-Prisoners  
of War

Mr. Keith A. Kreul, National Commander, The American Legion

Mr. Robert L. Wilbraham, National Commander, AMVETS

Mr. Thomas H. Miller, National President, Blinded Veterans Association

Lt. Col. Ronald E. Ray, USA (Ret.), National President, Congressional Medal  
of Honor Society

Mr. Dennis A. Joyner, National Commander, Disabled American Veterans

Mr. George E. Day, CMH, National Commander, Legion of Valor of the USA, Inc.

Mr. James C. Kelly, National Commandant, Marine Corps League

#### *OFFICIAL ESCORTS:*

Mr. Donald M. Skinder, Executive Director, Veterans Day National  
Committee

Mr. Richard N. Bain, Deputy Executive Director, Veterans Day National  
Commander

#### *HONORARY PALLBEARERS*

Lt. Col. Walter J. Marm, United States Army

M. Sgt. Jon R. Cavaiani, United States Army

Col. Jay R. Vargas, United States Marine Corps

Sgt. Maj. Allan J. Kellogg, Jr., United States Marine Corps

Lt. Col. James P. Fleming, United States Air Force

Mr. John Levitow, United States Air Force

BMC James Williams, United States Navy

CPO Michael E. Thornton, United States Navy

Mr. Evertt Alvarez, Ex-Prisoner of War

Mr. Fred V. Cherry (Col. Ret.), Ex-Prisoner of War



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

*The Secretary of Defense  
on behalf of the Armed Forces  
of the United States  
announces the burial of  
The Unknown American  
who died in defense of freedom  
during the Vietnam Conflict  
Memorial Amphitheater  
Arlington National Cemetery  
Monday, the twenty-eighth of May  
at two o'clock p.m.*

# Memorial Day Program

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## FUNERAL SERVICE

The National Anthem.....	Francis Scott Key The U.S. Marine Band, Colonel John R. Bourgeois, Director
The Invocation.....	Chaplain (Major General) Patrick J. Hesslan Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army
Trumpet Call.....	"Attention"
One Minute Of Silence.....	
My Country, 'Tis of Thee.....	Audience participating Henry Carey — Samuel F. Smith (Words)
Introduction.....	Caspar W. Weinberger Secretary of Defense
Presentation of Medal of Honor.....	Ronald Reagan The President of the United States
On Bended Knee.....	The U.S. Army Chorus arranged by Samuel R. Loboda, Major L. Bryan Shelburne, Director
Psalm of the Day (Psalm 91).....	Chaplain Simeon Kobrinetz Director, Chaplain Service, Veteran's Administration
The Last Words of David.....	Randall Thompson Samuel (Words)
The New Testament Lesson.....	John 14:1-7, 15-17, 27 Rear Admiral Neil M. Stevenson Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy
The Twenty-Third Psalm.....	J.S. Irvine arranged by Master Sergeant James Kessler King David (Words)
The Benediction.....	Captain Robert M. Radasky Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy
The Postlude.....	The U.S. Marine Band The U.S. Army Band, "Pershings Own"



# INTERMENT

- Jewish Prayer of Committal.....Chaplain (Colonel) Israel Drazin  
U.S. Army Reserve
- Orthodox Prayer of Committal.....Captain Robert M. Radasky  
Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy
- Catholic Prayer of Committal ..... Chaplain (Major General) John A. Collins  
Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Air Force
- Protestant Prayer of Committal .....Rear Admiral Neil M. Stevenson  
Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Navy
- Placing Of The Presidential Wreath..... President Ronald Reagan
- The Gun Salute.....3d U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard)  
Colonel Robert G. Krause, Commander
- The Benediction .....Captain Eddy B. Moran  
Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy  
The Chaplain, U.S. Coast Guard
- The Firing of the Volleys.....
- Taps.....Sergeant Major Patrick Mastroleo
- Folding of the Flag.....
- America The Beautiful .....The U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own"  
Colonel Eugene W. Allen, Leader and Commander
- Presentation Of The Flag .....Major General John L. Ballantyne, III  
Commanding General, U.S. Army Military District of Washington  
Raymond J. Costanzo  
Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery

## Services Participants

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VETERANS DAY NATIONAL COMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS IN  
VIETNAM UNKNOWN CEREMONIES AT  
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, MAY 28, 1984

- Mr. John Breeden, National Commander, Army and Navy Union
- Mr. Edward R. Ross, National Commander, Catholic War Veterans
- Mr. Daniel L. Spalding, National President, Fleet Reserve Association
- Mr. Joseph Zoldan, National Commander, Jewish War Veterans of the USA
- Chaplain (Col.) Simon H. Scott, Jr., National President, Military Chaplains Association
- Col. Adrian L. Hoebeke, USA (Ret), Commander-in-Chief, Military Order of the World Wars
- Mr. Franklin A. Lister, National President, Non-Commissioned Officers Association
- Mr. Dale E. Speelman, National President, Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Inc.
- Mr. Norman A. Lelo, National Commander, Polish Legion of American Veterans, USA
- Mr. Wendell Lowe, National Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Mr. Paul Cheremeta, National President, Paralyzed Veterans Association of America
- Mr. S. Leroy Mendel, Commander-in-Chief, United Spanish War Veterans
- Mr. Clifford G. Olson, Jr., Commander-in-Chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Mr. John W. Stover, National Commander, Veterans of World War I
- Mrs. June Everett, National President, American Gold Star Mothers
- Ms. Rachel A. Bunn, National President, Gold Star Wives of America

Col. Earl P. Hooper, AUS (Ret), Chairman of the Board, National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia

Mr. Robert O. Muller, President, Vietnam Veterans of America

Mr. Dan Jordan, National Commander, United Vietnam Veterans Organization

Mr. Wallace Sheppard, National Commander, Regular Veterans Association

OTHER VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS THAT PARTICIPATED IN  
VIETNAM UNKNOWN CEREMONIES AT  
ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, MAY 28, 1984

Italian American War Veterans of the United States

U.S. Submarine Veterans of World War II

American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor

American G.I. Forum of the U.S.

American Veterans Committee

National Amputation Foundation

Swords to Plowshares: Veterans Rights Organization

Air Force Association

Air Force Sergeants Association

American Association of Minority Veterans

American War Mothers

Association of the U.S. Army

Blue Star Mothers, Inc.

Flower of the Dragon, Inc..

Mexican Border Veterans, Inc.

National Association for Uniformed Services

National Association of Atomic Veterans

National Association of Concerned Veterans

National Association of Military Widows

National Congress of Puerto Rican Veterans

National Yeoman F

Naval Reserve Association

Past National Commanders Organization

Reserve Officers Association of the United States

Society of Military Widows

The Retired Officers Association

United States Army Warrant Officers Association

Veterans of the Vietnam War, Inc.

Vietnam Veterans Foundation

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Women's Air Force Service Pilots

Women's Army Corps Veterans Association

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