

# The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services



**Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
*Governor*

**Brig. Gen. Jamison A. Herrera**  
*Acting Cabinet Secretary*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Cremated Remains of 52 Unclaimed Deceased Veterans Laid to Rest in Today's 2023 Forgotten Heroes Funeral**

**(Santa Fe)**— The cremated remains of fifty-two deceased veterans were laid to rest at today's 2023 Forgotten Heroes Funeral at the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

The 50 men and two women were interred courtesy of the state's Forgotten Heroes Burial Program established by the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (DVS), Bernalillo County, the New Mexico National Guard, and the Santa Fe National Cemetery to provide a military funeral at the cemetery for any honorably discharged deceased veteran who, upon their death, is unclaimed by family or friends.

Today's funeral laid to rest the largest number of veterans in the history of the program, which began in 2010 as a collaborative effort by DVS and Bernalillo County to provide a military funeral for unclaimed deceased veterans from that county.

The Forgotten Heroes Funeral Program now includes participation from all 33 counties in the state. It is the only state-managed regularly-scheduled funeral in the nation for unclaimed deceased veterans.

Today's funeral began with a 9 a.m. reading of the names at the Calvary Church in northeast Albuquerque. The urns were then placed into two hearses for the trip to the Santa Fe National Cemetery for the 11 a.m. funeral service. The hearses were escorted by motorcycle-riding officers and deputies from the Albuquerque Police Department, Bernalillo County Sheriff's Office, New Mexico State Police, and the Santa Fe Police Department. Motorcycle-riding members of the American Legion Riders and the Patriot Guard Riders also joined the motorcade.

At the cemetery, DVS Acting Cabinet Secretary Brig. Gen. Jamison Herrera delivered the eulogy.

"All of you here today are here as family, to say good-bye...and with the help of veterans in attendance and the New Mexico National Guard members, to render the final salute these veterans deserve," said Secretary Herrera. "It has been a long and uncertain path for the souls of these 52 fallen veterans. Let us all take comfort in knowing that their souls may now finally rest in eternal peace."

Secretary Herrera then read aloud the 52 names, along with their service branch and rank. New Mexico Gold Star Mothers founding member Becky Christmas rang the cemetery's memorial bell after the reading of each name.

Military honors were then rendered, beginning with the flag-fold ceremony, which was performed by two teams of New Mexico National Guard Honor Guard—one for each cart of 26 urns. A rifle volley was rendered by the Kirtland Air Force Base Honor Guard. Russ McDuffie from Buglers Across America performed Taps. One folded flag was then presented by New Mexico Army National Guard Col. Pia Romero to Bernalillo County Deputy Manager for General Services Lisa Sedillo White. The other flag was presented to State Senator Harold Pope, an Air Force veteran. Both accepted the flags on behalf of the citizens of New Mexico.

The urns were then taken by cemetery staff for documentation and in-ground burials in another part of the cemetery.

### **The Forgotten Heroes Funeral Program**

The cremated remains of the following 52 veterans were interred with full military honors:

- 52 veterans
  - 50 men
  - 2 women

23 Army veterans  
 10 Navy  
 10 Air Force  
 8 Marines  
 1 Coast Guard

<b><u>Branch/Rank/Name</u></b>	<b><u>Years of Service</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Death</u></b>
<b><i>(Doña Ana County)(6 veterans)</i></b>		
USA PFC William Riley Curtis	1972-1976	7/02/2020
USA SPC4 Howard Nicolas Duke	1966-1968	4/13/19
USAF Sgt Allie James Harderman, Jr.	1967-1972	2/26/17
USCG SOM2 Kelley Jack	1941-1945	11/25/19
USMC Sgt Ralph Floyd Jackson	1964-1973	9/05/20
USAF A2C Manuel Mena	1954-1957	11/09/16
<b><i>(Otero County)(1)</i></b>		
USAF SSgt Joseph Catenia	1968-1973	8/19/21
<b><i>(Valencia County)(1)</i></b>		
USMC Cpl Blake Bullett Scott	1976-1979	11/30/21
<b><i>(Bernalillo County)(44)</i></b>		
USAF SMSgt Donald Ray Arnold	1975-2001	3/30/21
USA PFC Silas Lucas Barnes, Jr.	1949-1952	6/23/21
USMC Cpl Donald Reginald Baxter, Jr.	1969-1970	5/11/21
USN AD3 Renaud Belhomme	1977-1981	11/07/20

USAF AB Michael Gregory Berkowitz	1978-1979	4/16/22
USAF A1C Daniel James Brady	1974-1976	12/23/20
USMC PFC Norris Edward Brittain, Jr.	1968	5/16/21
USA SPC4 Albert Noel Cardona	1968-1970	4/06/22
USN SN George Henry Carter, Jr.	1968-1969	11/13/20
USA PFC Roy Raymond Christian	1948-1951	2/11/22
USA PFC Trinidad Joseph Cisneros	1966-1969	12/04/21
<b>USA PFC Marie Louise Duncan</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>8/30/21</b>
USN MSSR Jason Lloyd Eastman	1977-1980	6/23/21
USN SR James Thomas Godwin II	1978	1/19/21
USA SPC4 John Robert Gregg	1984-1988	1/03/22
USMC PFC Robert Richard Henningsen	1955-1957	4/26/21
USN FN Norman Lawrence Hamilton	1964-1968	10/20/21
USA SPC4 Jimmy Dee Hebbard	1978-1983	8/11/21
USMC PFC Terry Lee Hoke	1960-1963	5/15/22
USA SGT Marco Antonio Ibarra	1971-1980	11/24/20
USMC Pvt David Joseph Isaac	1974	12/12/21
USAF SSgt Andrew Joseph Jackson	1956-1974	2/29/21
USA SPC5 Marshall David Karr	1962-1969	11/06/20
USA SPC4 Charles Auburn Klinhenn, Jr.	1971-1976	9/20/21
USN SA Bruce Langford	1980-1982	5/29/21
<b>USA PV2 Diane Lane Macomber</b>	<b>1968-1970</b>	<b>7/20/20</b>
USA PV2 John Manzanares	1968-1970	11/30/20
USA AN Samuel Martinez	1972-1974	2/24/22
USN SR Darrell Edward Moore	1976	11/17/20
USA SPC4 Jeffery John O'Connell	1977-1980	11/14/21
USA SGT Raul Herbert Perez	1962-1965	11/26/20
USA PFC Stephen Curtis Perkins	1972	10/23/20
USA SGT Carl Franklin Pheneger	1966-1969	12/21/21
USA SPC4 Arther James Rea, Jr.	1971-1973	11/23/21
USA SPC Larry Alan Rhodes	1973-1975	11/06/21
USA PFC Frank James Rychel	1963-1967	2/25/21
USA PFC Gene Michael Sanders	1967-1969	3/03/22
USAF A1C Herbert Joseph Schwartz	1962-1966	11/09/21
USAF A1C Ray Lewis St. Clar, Sr.	1955-1958	1/26/22
USN FC Peter Scott Temple	1958-1961	5/16/21
USA PFC Thomas Stephan Vancleave	1983-1985	2/03/21
USAF Sgt Christopher James Whyte	1968-1972	4/01/22

USN SN Curtis Wayne Willeford	1959-1960	9/28/21
USMC LCpl Karl Lee Zarkowski	1972-1976	3/16/22

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### **The New Mexico Department of Veterans Services**

The New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) provides support and services to New Mexico's 143,134 veterans and their families. DVS treats every veteran, regardless of their rank achieved during military service, with the respect and gratitude befitting someone who has served our country. We strive every day to live up to our agency's official motto: *Serving Those Who Served*.