



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



THE AMERICAN LEGION

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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THE AMERICAN LEGION MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT



For generations, they've waited.

Unclaimed, forgotten...

Photos: Department of Defense

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

For generations, they've waited.

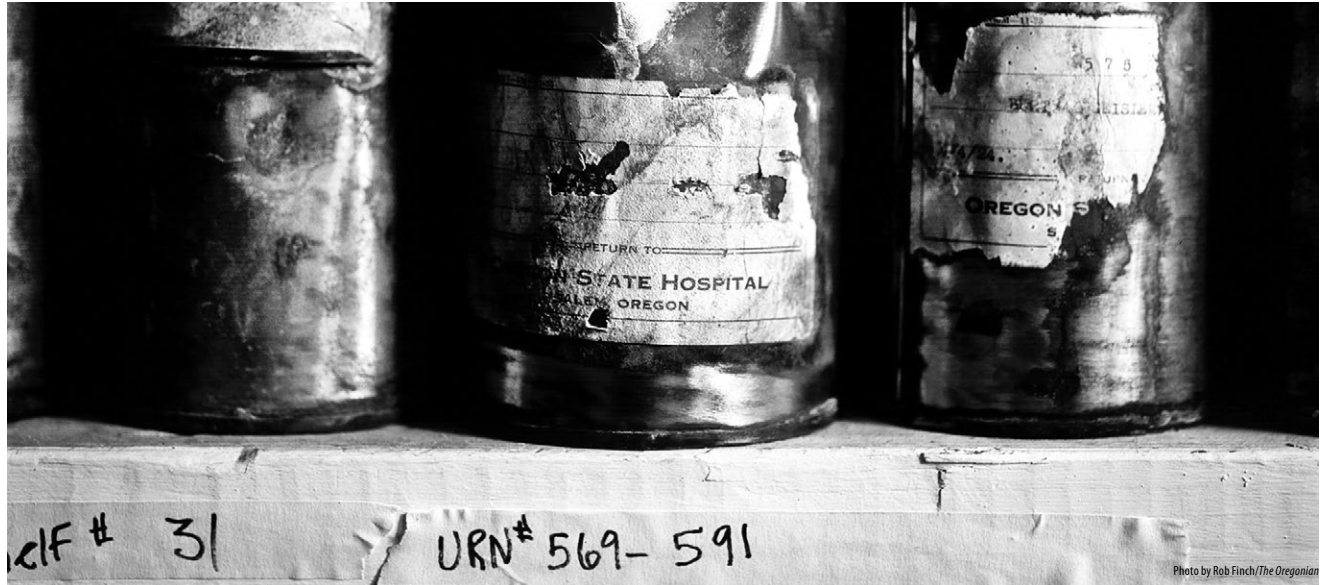
Unclaimed, forgotten, silently occupying the shelves of mortuaries and state hospitals across the United States.

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 discoveries have been made across the country.