

America
Veterans Association
Memorial Service



Kansas City, Missouri

June 17, 2005



Killed in Action:
World War II 981



Killed in Action:
Vietnam 4,094

Program

Introduction

Dale Meisel, 23rd MP Company

Invocation

David Taylor, C Co., 5th Battalion, 46th Infantry

Remarks

Thomas Bedient, C Co., 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry

Presentation of Wreath

Jon Hansen, D Co., 26th Engineer Battalion

Floyd Nicholas, 23rd MP Company

Benediction

David Taylor

Taps



Tomb of the Unknown

The Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., is also known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and has never been officially named and stands atop a hill overlooking Washington, D.C. On March 4, 1921, Congress approved the burial of an unidentified American soldier from World War I in the plaza of the new Memorial Amphitheater.

The white marble sarcophagus has a flat-faced form and is relieved at the corners and along the sides by columns set into the surface. Sculpted into the east panel which faces Washington, D.C., are three Greek figures representing Peace, Victory and Valor. Inscribed on the back of the Tomb are the words:

HERE RESTS IN
HONORED GLORY
AN AMERICAN
SOLDIER
KNOWN BUT TO GOD



The Tomb sarcophagus was placed above the grave of the Unknown Soldier of World War I. West of the World War I Unknown are the crypts of unknowns from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Those three graves are marked with white marble slabs flush with the plaza.

The Unknown of World War I

On Memorial Day 1921, four unknowns were exhumed from four World War I American cemeteries in France. U.S. Army Sgt. Edward F. Younger, who was wounded in combat, and received the Distinguished Service Medal in the war selected the Unknown Soldier of World War I from four identical caskets at the city hall in Chalons-sur-Marne, France, Oct. 24, 1921.

The Unknowns of World War II and Korea

On August 3, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill to select and pay tribute to the unknowns of World War II and Korea. The selection ceremonies and the interment of these unknowns took place in 1958. The World War II Unknown was selected from remains exhumed from cemeteries in Europe, Africa, Hawaii and the Philippines.

The Unknown of Vietnam

The Unknown service member from the Vietnam War was designated by Medal of Honor recipient U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Allan Jay Kellogg Jr. during a ceremony at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, May 17, 1984. The remains of the Vietnam Unknown were exhumed May 14, 1998. Based on mitochondrial DNA testing, DoD scientists identified the remains as those of Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, who was shot down near An Loc, Vietnam, in 1972. It has been decided that the crypt that contained the remains of the Vietnam Unknown will remain vacant.

*Photos of American soldiers of Vietnam (C Co., 4th Bn./3rd Inf.) courtesy of Thomas Bedient.
Layout and design courtesy of Robin Nucilli.*



Americal Division Veterans
Association

Saturday Night
Program



Downtown Marriott
Kansas City, Missouri

June 18, 2005

Program

Master of Ceremonies	Steve Reisdorff
Presentation of Colors and National Anthem	Veterans of Foreign Wars Post# 4055 Platte City, Missouri
Invocation	Dave Chrystal
The Americal Division's "Old Glory"	
Pledge of Allegiance	Rich Smith, Sergeant of Arms
POW/MIA Ceremony	Bill Bacon, Sr. Vice Commander
"God Bless America"	
Introduction of Head Table and Special Guest	Steve Reisdorff
	Dinner
	The Piano Music during dinner this evening is being played by Lora Schnurbusch of the Friendship Christian Church in Centralia, Missouri.
Comedy	Tom Burgood
National Commander's Remarks	Jon Hansen

Kansas City Reunion Chairman's Remarks Dave Chrystal
Portland Previews Dave Hammond
Guest Speaker John Furgess, Commander in Chief,
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Live Music and Dancing The Moonlight Serenade Orchestra

Have a Safe and Pleasant Trip Home.
See you next year in Portland, Oregon.

“Westward, Ho!!!!!!”



**Americal Division
Veterans Association**

God Bless the USA

by Lee Greenwood

If tomorrow all the things were gone I worked for all my life
And I had to start again with just my children and my wife
I thank my lucky stars to be living here today
Cause the flag still stands for freedom
And they can't take that away

And I'm Proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died and gave that right to me
And I gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today
Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land, God Bless the USA

From the lakes of Minnesota to the hills of Tennessee
Cross the plains of Texas, from sea to shining sea
From Detroit down Houston and New York to LA
Well there's pride in every American heart
And it's time we stand and say that

And I'm Proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died and gave that right to me
And I gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today
Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land, God Bless the USA

And I'm Proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free
And I won't forget the men who died and gave that right to me
And I gladly stand up ... next to you ... and defend her still today
Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land, God Bless the USA

