



**ROLLING THUNDER<sup>®</sup>, INC**  
**CHAPTER 2 OF ILLINOIS**  
**Wauconda, Illinois**



**“MISSION COMPLETE”**

**4 MAY 2022**

**U.S. Navy Fireman First Class George Price**

George Franklin Price, died December 7, 1941, at the age of 23, aboard the battleship USS Oklahoma in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

He was born March 13, 1918 in Meredosia, Illinois, the son of Leonard Franklin and Ella (Hignight) Price.

George joined the United States Navy in 1936. His first mission aboard the USS Oklahoma was rescuing refugees from the Spanish Civil War. Following that mission, the ship docked in Hawaii where it remained until that fateful day. Fireman First Class George F. Price was serving aboard the ship when it was attacked and capsized in Pearl Harbor. For his service Price was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and Navy Good Conduct Metal.



**MISSING:** On Dec. 7, 1941, Price was assigned to the battleship USS *Oklahoma*, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft. The USS *Oklahoma* sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to capsize almost immediately. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Price.



**RECOVERY:** From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uauu Cemeteries.

In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater, members of the American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield Barracks. The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from the USS Oklahoma at that time. The AGRS subsequently buried the unidentified remains in 46 plots at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP), known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu. In October 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as non-recoverable, including Price.



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Between June and November 2015, DPAA personnel exhumed the USS Oklahoma Unknowns from the Punchbowl for analysis.

To identify Price's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and Y-chromosome DNA (Y-STR) analysis.

Price's name was recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Price's next – of – kin, niece, Joyce Martin, said he came from a large family, and he was especially close with his sisters before enlisting.

"They spoiled him," she said. "They took care of him, as only sisters could."

Price was not married and had no children of his own.

Martin said his seven living nieces and nephews were all born after he died.

While they never knew him personally, they got to know him through family stories.

"Five of his sisters were left, and we called those 'the sisters.' Every time we would get together as a family, we would hear the sisters talk about George," Martin said. "And that's how we grew to know who Uncle George was, by listening to these sisters."

When Martin thinks of the sisters' stories now, she hears something else in them.

"To hear the grief and the not knowing in the sisters' voices as they talked, now that I reflect back," she said. "It really moves me now that I know what grief they went through as a family."

The effort led to Martin, her brother, Albert Siegfried, and one of their cousins being contacted to provide DNA samples.

Martin said to be able to move forward in any way in identifying Uncle George was exciting.

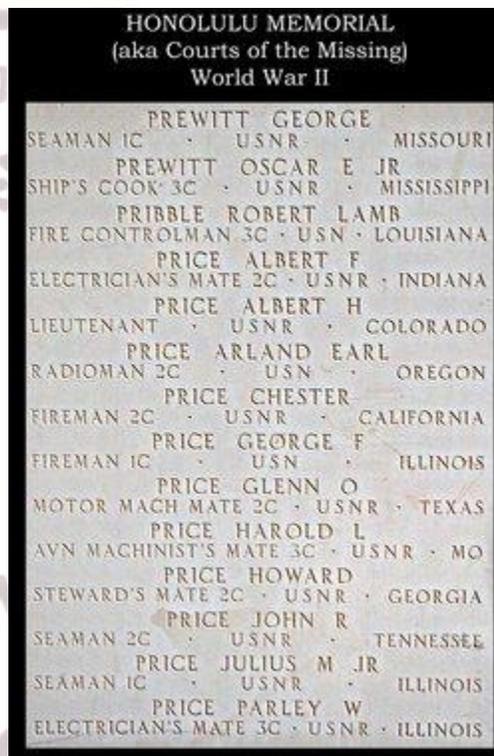
"Deep down in the bottom of my heart, I knew there would be some result to this," she said.

Martin said the family was ecstatic when they got the news that Price had been identified.

Being able to lay him to rest, she said, will be like closing a chapter.

"Even though we didn't know him, we always had a chapter in our lives left wide open," Martin said.

"It's peace of mind. Peace for his parents, and peace to all his relatives who knew him," Siegfried said.



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**INTERMENT:**



Fireman First Class George F. Price was returned to Dallas City, Illinois and laid to rest between two of his sisters at Harris Cemetery, near Dallas City.

Funeral Services were held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Dallas City with his niece Minister Joyce Martin officiating. Burial, with full military honors, will follow in Harris Cemetery, near Dallas City.

Banks & Beals Funeral Home of Dallas City is assisting the family. A memorial fund has been established for the Dallas City American Legion.

Surviving includes seven nieces and nephews: Albert Siegfried, Franklin Freeman, Joan Miller, Patty Freeman, Roger Freeman, Steven Freeman and Joyce Martin.

More than 100 people attended the Memorial Service for FIC Price at Banks and Beals Funeral Home followed by interment at Harris Cemetery with full military honors for his sacrifice in WWII.

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Hundreds of Dallas City residents and students from local schools lined the procession route to pay their respect and honors to F1C George Price

A military honor guard stood at attention as a 21-gun salute was fired and the bugler played taps before FIC Price relatives received the folded American flag that rested on the coffin.

Despite decades of time, the ceremony brought a sense of closure to the family, comfort to his friends, warmth to his fellow Americans, and pride to his Veteran brothers and sisters.



**CHAPTER COIN and POW/MIA FLAG:** A National POW/MIA Flag and Challenge coins from Illinois Chapters 2 and 3 were presented to FIC Price surviving nephew by Rich Lanute, President, Chapter 2, and Tony Schmidt, President, Chapter 3, Rolling Thunder, Inc. The coin symbolizes a “test of our metal” in supporting the on-going efforts to ensure the remaining 82,000 plus servicemen, servicewomen, and civilians, unaccounted for, are returned to our Country and to their loved ones.

**FUNERAL:**

**Rolling Thunder Participants:**

ATTENDEES (17) Doug Barrett, Jen Block, Kevin Calder, Ron Carpenter, Jeremy Forys, Deb Gille, Mary Kirkpatrick, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Rich Lanute, Ted Makarewicz, Garret Peterson, John Sandfrey, Chuck Schumann, Mick Singer, Dave VanMatre, Marlene VanMatre, Doug Waldrop.



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