



ROLLING THUNDER[®], INC
CHAPTER 2 OF ILLINOIS
Wauconda, Illinois



“MISSION COMPLETE”

29 APRIL 2023

U.S. Army Sergeant Richard E. Crotty

MISSING: In late 1950, Crotty was a member of Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. On 1 September 1950, Crotty's was reported missing in action after his unit was engaged by the Korean People's Army near Yongsan, South Korea. There is no indication his remains were recovered after the battle, and he was never recorded as a prisoner of war. The Army issued a presumptive finding of death on Dec. 31, 1953, and his remains were determined to be nonrecoverable in January 1956.



RECOVERY: In April 2017, Crotty's next of kin contacted the Army and requested the disinterment of X-1667 Tangkok as a potential association with Crotty. The remains were disinterred on Sept. 8, 2018, and transferred to the DPAA Laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii for analysis. To identify Crotty's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental, anthropological, and isotope analysis.

DIGNIFIED TRANSFER 25 April 2023



ROLLING THUNDER ATTENDEES (9) Andy Haszlakewicz, Ted Makarewicz, Mary Kirkpatrick, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Nick Bender, Chuck Schumann, John Cummings, Paul Hebein, Bill Fulton

The IL State Police would not provide an escort and Region1 of Patriot Guard could not support this mission.

Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2-Illinois successfully escorted SGT Crotty, 150 miles in chilly temperatures to the Mason-White Funeral Home in Washington, IL, and were honored to be able to perform the duties of pallbearers.

INTERMENT 29 April 2023:

US Army Sergeant Richard E. Crotty came home to rest on 29 April 22 next to his family members and brother Jack, in Swan Lake Memory Garden, Peoria, IL.



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ROLLING THUNDER ATTENDEES (10) Ted Makarewicz, Ron Carpenter, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Nick Bender, Chuck Schumann, Paul Hebein, Bill Fulton, Rich Lanute, Chapter 3: Marlene Van Matre, David Van Matre

Rolling Thunder members proudly performed the duties of Remains Bearer and Flag Bearer for the interment. The funeral procession was along a 15 - mile route where local citizens, and a lone eagle, viewed the procession.

More than 100 people came out to Swan Lake Memory Garden to honor SGT Crotty, who was buried with full military honors for his sacrifice in the Korean War.

An American Legion, Post 2, honor guard fired a 21-gun salute and their bugler played taps before SGT Crotty's nephew, Mike Crotty, received the folded American flag that accompanied the remains. A POW/MIA Flag and Chapter 2 challenge coin were presented to Mike Crotty from the members of Rolling Thunder, Illinois.

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.



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CHAPTER COIN and POW/MIA FLAG: A National POW/MIA Flag, flown during the Dignified Transfer, and subsequent escort, along with a Rolling Thunder, Chapter 2, IL challenge coin, was presented to SGT Crotty's surviving nephew, Mike Crotty and family members. A Challenge Coin from Chapter 3 was presented by Marlene Van Matre. Our 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.

