



ROLLING THUNDER[®], INC

CHAPTER 2 OF ILLINOIS

Wauconda, Illinois



“MISSION COMPLETE”

28 OCTOBER 2023

U.S. Army Air Forces 1LT Edward McGuire

MISSING: First Lt. Edward T. McGuire died Aug. 1, 1943 at 22 years old when his B-24 Liberator bomber went down near Ploiesti, Romania, during Operation Tidal Wave in World War II. His death was presumed when he did not make it back to the Allied base following the operation.

Operation Tidal Wave was a flyover mission which sought to use U.S. and British bombers, including the one piloted by McGuire, to take out German oil refineries in Romania. His was one of 177 planes that took part in Operation Tidal Wave to bomb the oil refineries in Romania that fueled Germany's war machine. While McGuire was able to save his crew, his B-24 Liberator was shot down by anti-aircraft fire before he could bail out. McGuire's plane was among the 51 that failed to return. The Allied casualties from the battle stand at 310 airmen killed, 108 captured, and 78 interned in Turkey. 1LT McGuire was buried as an unknown in Belgium for 80 years.



McGuire, born April 11, 1921, was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Purple Heart.

RECOVERY: Following the war, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC), the organization that searches for and recovers fallen American personnel, disinterred all American military from the Bolovani Cemetery in Romania for identification. The AGRC was unable to identify more than 80 unknowns from Bolovani Cemetery, and those personnel were permanently interred at Ardennes American Cemetery and Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, both in Belgium. In 2017, DPAA began exhuming unknowns believed to be associated with unaccounted-for airmen from Operation TIDAL WAVE losses. These unknowns were sent to the DPAA Laboratory at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, for examination and identification. On June 30, 2023, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Edward T. McGuire, killed during World War II, was finally accounted for June 30, 2023.

DIGNIFIED TRANSFER 20 October 2023



The Chicago Police Department provided the escort supported by the Fire and Police departments of Evergreen Park, Oak Lawn and Alsip, IL



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



Rolling Thunder, Chapters 1 and 2-Illinois supported by Canaryville Riders successfully escorted 1LT McGuire 8 miles in chilly temperatures to the Blake-Lamb Funeral Home in Evergreen Park, IL, and were honored to be able to perform the duties escorts.

ROLLING THUNDER CHAPTER 2-IL ATTENDEES (7) Andy Haszlakiewicz, Ted Makarewicz, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Paul Hebein, Mark Mazurkewicz, Scott Miller, and Greg Smith

INTERMENT 28 October 2023:

Following a Mass at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Evergreen Park, IL, U.S. Army Air Force 1LT Edward McGuire finally came home to rest on 28 October 2023 next to his family members at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Alsip, IL.



An American Legion Post supplemented the U.S. Army Reserve Honor Guard by providing the 21-gun salute and bugler playing taps before the next of kin received the folded American flag that accompanied the remains.

A POW/MIA Flag, flown during the Dignified Transfer, was presented to the next of kin by Al Miller and Ted Makarewicz the presidents of Chapters 1 and 2 on behalf of the members of Rolling Thunder, Illinois.

The funeral procession was along a 5 - mile route where local citizens, fire and police departments and hundreds of citizens turned out to view the funeral procession and to honor 1LT McGuire, who was buried with full military honors for his sacrifice in World War II.



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

ROLLING THUNDER CHAPTER 2-IL ATTENDEES (11) Andy Haszlakiewicz, Ted Makarewicz, Wayne Kirkpatrick, Mary Kirkpatrick Nick Bender, Paul Hebein, Rich Lanute, Mark Mazurkewicz, Scott Miller, Tony Yarbrough, and Greg Smith. Chapter 1-IL Al Miller, Moe, Stretch, Dave Man.

POW/MIA FLAG: A National POW/MIA Flag, flown during the Dignified Transfer, and subsequent escort, was presented to the next of kin and family members. The POW/MIA Flag 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.

MEMORIAL BRICK: A Commemorative Brick has been added to the KIA / POW / MIA section of the Veterans Memorial at Woodstock Harley-Davidson, memorializing U.S. Army Air Force 1Lt Edward McGuire.

