



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



“MISSION COMPLETE”

10 JUNE 2024

2LT Robert Porter

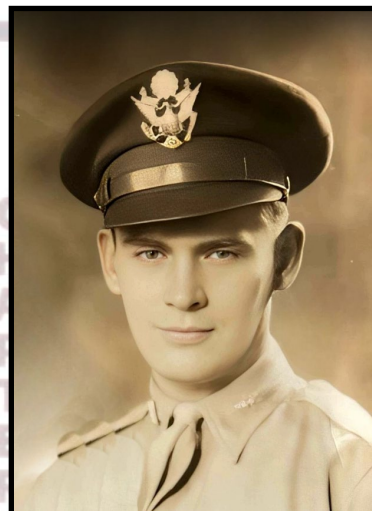
Second Lieutenant Porter entered the U.S. Army Air Forces from Illinois and served in the 703rd Bombardment Squadron, 403rd Bombardment Group.

MISSING: On February 24, 1944, he was the navigator aboard a B-24J Liberator (serial number 42-100312) which took off from its airbase in England, for a bombing mission against enemy targets near Gotha, Germany.

During the mission, his aircraft sustained damage from an enemy fighter attack and exploded in mid-air near Bad Salzungen, Germany. Two crew members survived the attack, but the rest, including 2LT Porter, were lost in the explosion. Post-war search efforts to find his remains were unsuccessful.

RECOVERY: In March 1952, the American Graves Registration Command (AGRC) took custody of commingled unidentified remains from Bad Salzungen Cemetery. Among them were remains belonging to several crewmembers from a bomber crash between Bad Salzungen and Leimbach-Kaiseroda. However, there was not enough evidence to warrant an individual or group identification, and they were ultimately interred in the Ardennes American Cemetery. In June 2021 these remains were disinterred and transferred to a DPAA Laboratory for further study. The laboratory analysis and the totality of the circumstantial evidence available established one set of these remains as those of 2LT Porter.

Second Lieutenant Porter is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at the Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery in Hombourg, Belgium. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.



DIGNIFIED TRANSFER 6 June 2024



The Illinois State Police provided the traffic control, supported by local Fire and Police departments. The hearse was led by, Rolling Thunder, Chapters 1 and 2-Illinois Mounted Color Guard supported by Patriot Guard Riders and other groups, who escorted 2LT Porter 16 miles from Midway Airport to Lawn Funeral



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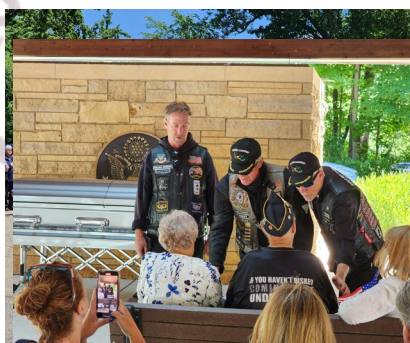


Home, 7732 W 159th St, Orland Park, IL and were honored to be able to perform the duties of pallbearers and escorts.

The procession was along a 16 - mile route where hundreds of local citizens, fire and police departments turned out to view the procession and to honor 2LT Porter.

ROLLING THUNDER CHAPTER 2-IL ATTENDEES (6) Wayne Kirkpatrick, Mary Kirkpatrick, Anthony Yarborough, Ted Makarewicz, Scott Miller, and Nick Bender.

INTERMENT 10 June 2024



Following prayers at Lawn Funeral Home, 7732 W 159th St, Orland Park, IL, 2LT Porter finally came home to rest on 10 June 2024 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.



The funeral procession was along a 32 - mile route where local citizens, fire and police departments and the public turned out to view the funeral procession and to honor 2LT Porter who was buried with full military honors for his sacrifice in the Korean War.

An American Legion Post provided the 21-gun salute and bugler playing taps before the next of kin received the folded American flag that accompanied the remains.



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A POW/MIA Flag, flown during the Dignified Transfer, was presented to the next of kin by Ted Makarewicz, Dave Skinner, and Anthony Yarbrough of Chapters 1 and 2 on behalf of 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.

ROLLING THUNDER CHAPTER 2-IL ATTENDEES (6); Ted Makarewicz, Anthony Yarbrough, Scott Miller, and Nick Bender. Wayne Kirkpatrick, and Mark Mazurkewicz.

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 81,000 plus servicemen, servicewomen, and civilians, unaccounted for, are returned to our Country and to their loved ones.

MEMORIAL BRICK: A Commemorative Brick will be added to the KIA / POW / MIA section of the Veterans Memorial at Woodstock Harley-Davidson, memorializing U.S. Army Air Corps 2LT Robert Porter.

