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"MISSION COMPLETE" **4 OCTOBER 2024**

PFC Harry Jerele

Army PFC Harry Jerele, 26, of Berkeley, IL PFC Harry Jerele served with Company B, 192nd Tank Battalion, Illinois Army National Guard, from Maywood IL., activated in November 1940. Jerele was a serving in the Philippines when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942.



MISSING: On 22 December 1941, the 192nd Tank Battalion became the first American tank unit to engage enemy armor in tank-to-tank combat during World War II. The unit withdrew to the Bataan Peninsula as part of the general retreat and ceased to exist on 9 April 1942 when the last surviving American and Philippine forces on the Bataan Peninsula surrendered and were taken prisoner.

PFC Jerele survived the Bataan Death March, when about 75,000 captured Filipino and American troops were forced to march 65 miles to prison camps. PFC Jerle was held at the Japanese Cabanatuan prisoner-of-war camp in the Philippines until he perished there on Dec. 28, 1942 at age 26 from pneumonia. He was buried in an unmarked grave at Cabanatuan.

RECOVERY: Following the war, those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery were relocated to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. In 1947, two sets of remains from Common Grave 804 were identified, but the remaining two were declared unidentifiable, including those of PFC. Jerele. The unidentified remains were buried in Grave 804 at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial as Unknowns.

In early 2020, the remains associated with Grave 804 were disinterred and sent to the DPAA laboratory for analysis where PFC Jerele's remains, were identified in December 2023 using anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence.

DIGNIFIED TRANSFER 1 October 2024





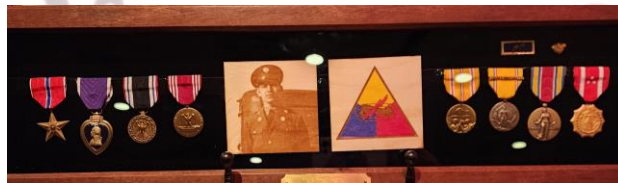
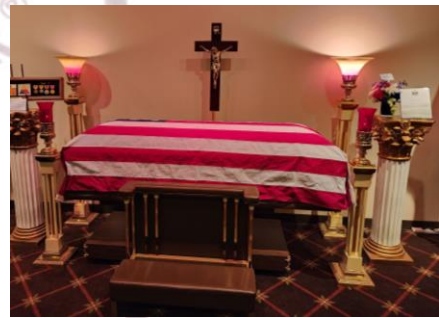
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Locale Police and Fire departments provided the traffic control while the hearse was led by Rolling Thunder, Chapters 1 and 2 supported by many patriotic groups, who escorted PFC Jerele 10 miles from O'Hare Airport to Russo Funeral Chapels, Berkely, IL.

The procession was viewed by hundreds of local citizens, fire and police departments who turned out to view the procession and honor PFC Jerele.

INTERMENT 6 October 2024



At the memorial service for PFC Jerele his family was presented with ten military awards and the Congressional Gold Medal for his service by Illinois State Adjutant General Commander, US Army National Guard Major General Rodney Boyd and US Army Major General (Retired) Antonio Tabuga.





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Following the Memorial service, PFC Jerele's remains were escorted, five miles, to the Berkeley Veterans Plaza where his Next of Kin, Ms. Rosemarie Dillon placed a wreath in his honor during a dedication led by the Mayor of Berkeley, IL.



The funeral procession was along a 55 - mile route where local citizens, fire and police departments local schools, and the public turned out to view the funeral procession and to honor PFC Jerele 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.

A POW/MIA Flag, flown during the Dignified Transfer, was presented to the next of kin by Dave Skinner, of Rolling Thunder IL Chapter 1 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.

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 PFC Jerele.

ABC Video: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/funeral-to-be-held-for-wwii-soldier-from-chicago-area-harry-jerele-after-remains-idd/ar-AA1rH25S>

Dallas Airport Transfer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpD3bvjWi5o>