



ROLLING THUNDER[®], INC ILLINOIS

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Repatriation of Cpl. Paul Eugene Hoots

24 July, 2025

Corporal Paul Eugene Hoots was born on May 8, 1925, to John Henry Hoots and Willie Eunice (Constable) Hoots of Galesburg, Illinois. Paul enlisted in the United States Army on October 12, 1948. On July 7, 1950, he was reported missing in action near Ch'anon, South Korea at the very onset of the Korean Conflict.

Hinchliff Pearson West Obituary:

<https://www.h-p-w.com/obituary/CorporalPaul-Hoots>

MISSING: Hoots was assigned to K Company, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency said he went missing after his unit engaged with the North Korean People's Army near Ch'onan, South Korea, on July 7, 1950. He was reported missing in action the following day.



RECOVERY: Starting in December 1950, all identification efforts were moved to Kokura, Japan. Unable to associate Unknown X-16 Taejon with a Korean War loss, those remains were transferred to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, also known as the Punchbowl, in Honolulu on 8 Feb 1956.

In July 2018, the DPAA proposed a plan to disinter 652 Korean War Unknowns from the Punchbowl. On June 10, 2019, DPAA disinterred Unknown X-16 Taejon as part of Phase Two of the Korean War Disinterment Project and sent the remains to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

To identify Unknown X-16 as Hoots,' scientists from the DPAA lab used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as chest radiograph comparison and circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA analysis.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced that U.S. Army Cpl. Paul Eugene Hoots, 25, of Galesburg, Illinois, killed during the Korean War, was accounted-for Nov. 15, 2024

Hoots' name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing at the Punchbowl, along with the others who are still missing from the Korean War. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.



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Dignified Transfer 22 July 2025

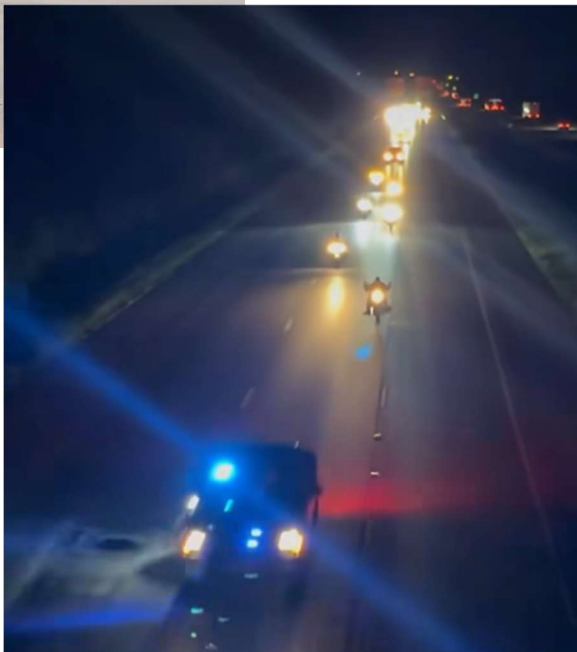
St. Louis Intl Airport Dignified Transfer 22 July 2025:

After DPAA laboratory analysis were completed, Cpl. Hoots remains were flown from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, HI to DFW Airport were a dignified transfer with a connecting flight to St. Louis Airport took place.

Family members met the plane at the Airport for a long Overdue welcome home. Paul was escorted over 300 miles from St Louis airport to Galesburg by State, County, Local Police and Fire departments who provided traffic control and roadside honors as the procession passed by. The hearse was led by Rolling Thunder Chapter 3 and supported by many additional patriotic groups on his final leg home as local citizens displayed their honor and respect. Despite some rainy weather and the later evening escort, almost every overpass for 300 miles was lined with Patriotic Americans, and Police and Fire departments. The plane was delayed about 1.5 hours and the procession arrived at HPW around 2300hrs.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?mibextid=D5vuiZ&v=1947219312697743&rdid=IY9C7p5ixXMSI5Vm>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2148920865613324>





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INTERMENT SERVICES 24 July 2025

Funeral Services were held at Hinchliff Pearson West. Oneida American Legion posted an honor detail next to the casket during the services and an honor guard at the cemetery.



Departing HPW funeral Home, Cpl Hoots was escorted along a 5-mile route to East Linwood Cemetery, Galesburg IL. Over 80 community volunteers assisted Jeff Hastings and his crew from www.theflagmanmission.org to line the procession route with over 600 American flags. A truly impressive tribute.





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The procession was led by Knox County Sheriff's and Galesburg Police and Fire with patriotic citizens of Galesburg lining the streets as it passed by.

<https://www.ourquadcities.com/news/local-news/we-are-just-shocked-it-even-happened-qca-korean-war-veteran-honored-75-years-later/>

A proclamation was read by the Mayors office, Army National Guard provided a 21-gun salute, a bugler played taps and a Scottish Bagpiper played the Funeral Song (Amazing Grace)

Corporal Paul Eugene Hoots was buried with full military honors for his sacrifice to our country during the Korean War.





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A National POW/MIA Flag, flown during the Funeral escort was presented to the next of kin by members of Rolling Thunder IL Chapters.



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, who remain unaccounted for, are returned to our Country and to their loved ones.

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.

When a community of patriotic Americans come together to honor an American hero like Cpl. Hoots, it is not only the right thing to do but, it also makes us so proud of our fellow citizens, our communities, and our Nation.

MEMORIAL BRICK: A Commemorative Brick will be added by Rolling Thunder to the KIA / POW / MIA section of the Veterans Memorial at Woodstock Harley-Davidson, memorializing U.S. Army Cpl. Hoots.

Rolling Thunder Illinois Chapters are proudly grateful and honored to have participated in the welcome home of Cpl. Hoots.





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