

**IN SUPPORT OF**  
**HB 2147**  
**CREMAINS BILL**

Around 5 or so years ago I was one of the five that worked as a team recovering, identifying, and arranging for military burials at Roseburg VA National Cemetery. We discovered approximately **26** veteran cremains from WWI, WWII, Korea and VietNam were languishing on dusty shelves and in cabinets in a local funeral home. One veteran rejoined his family, another was buried by his tribe and there could have been one more that was returned to relatives.

The cremains were turned over to our small contingent of veteran volunteers and were held in the office of the Douglas County Veterans Service Officer (Mary Newman-Keys). She was designated next of kin. The remaining 23 veterans were accorded military services on three consecutive days (US Army day 1), (US Navy and USMC day 2), and (US Airforce and Coast Guard 3).

In my 20 years of active military service and my 20 years of service to all veterans as a volunteer this was without a doubt one of the most honorable and holy and righteous service to veterans that one can imagine.

How many more lie on dusty shelves in funeral homes in Oregon? How can an honorable bill such as House Bill 2147 be held up over pennies?

It is my fervent hope and prayer that you see it in your heart, minds, humanity, and funding to allow this action to go forward and become law.

**This is a service and an act of respect for veterans who have been forgotten and have not yet been committed to their final resting place with appropriate honors.**

Thanking you in advance for your positive wise decision to allow HB 2147 law.

Sincerely yours.

Lawrence D. Hill

American Legion District 9 Commander

Member of VFW, DAV, NCOA, Douglas County Veterans Advisory Committee, and  
Douglas County Veterans Forum