

Rick Crandall Facebook post 10/24/2018

Finally at Rest

It is a hardly talked about fact that thousands of people who pass away each year have no next of kin to make final arrangements when they die. In most cases they are simply cremated and placed in urns, at best, in vaults where they wait for someone to possibly come and claim them. And very often the wait never ends. For the veterans among them that is changing as groups like Vietnam Veterans of America have undertaken the task of identifying those that served and making arrangements for them to be given honors burials and final rest in National Cemetery's. So it was that I ended up at Fort Logan today at the invitation of VVA Post 1071 to share words in tribute of 14 veterans who had come to be with others like them, instead of on a mortuary shelf. Today reminded me of what I love most about being a veteran. Until we take our last breath we are there for one another, and then one who follows makes sure we're taken care of. It might sound silly but as I spoke today I could feel joy in Shelter A. I'm certain it came from the 14 lined up beside me in wood boxes who knew they were finally at home, that the journey from death to final rest was now complete. They were no longer alone and unclaimed. What a gift to give someone, and what a blessing it was to be part of it. Thanks to VVA Chapter 1071 for giving me the honor of being your voice today and thank you to the 14 for your service. Rest well.