## VELCOME HOME **SAILOR**





**FINAL SALUTE** — United States Navy personnel gave a final salute to Lt. Richard "Tito" Lannom's casket before the Vietnam pilot's burial held Saturday at East View Cem-



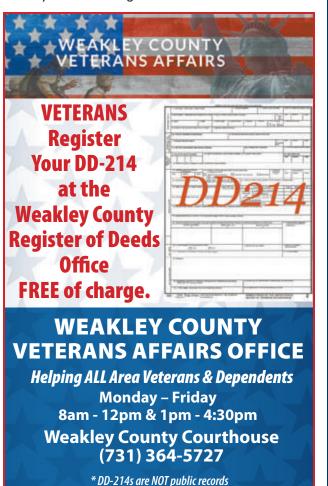
**UNFURLING THE FLAG** — Union City Fire Capt. Paul Holdeman (left) looks on as Martin Fire Capt. Freddie Winstead prepares the flag that was attached to two ladder trucks, one from MFD and another from Dyersburg, at the entrance of East View Cemetery. Martin firefighter Demarchio Lee was also on hand for the burial.



NOT FORGOTTEN — Lt. Richard "Tito" Lannom's widow, Charlotte Shaw, placed her memorial bracelet atop Lannom's casket Saturday during his burial. Shaw spent 51 years waiting for news of the sailor who was declared MIA in Vietnam.



A HERO'S SERVICE — Lt. Richard "Tito" Lannom's burial service held Saturday at East View Cemetery in Union City included full military honors for the sacrifice made by Lannom during the Vietnam War.





**LAID TO REST** — Members of the United States Navy served as pallbearers during Lt. Richard "Tito" Lannom's burial service at East View Cemetery Saturday.

## **LANNOM** FROM PAGE 2

word that Lannom's status had changed to Killed in Ac-

Jim Phelps of Gleason and a member of Rolling Thunder, one of several veteran support organizations present and one that specifically advocates for Prisoners of War and MIAs, noted that since World War II, 82,000 service members have not returned home. Great strides have been made in recent history, he agreed, with annual totals of those returned growing from 8 to 10 per year to now more than 200, but the sheer magnitude is still overwhelming.

"Realistically, half of those may never be found," he acknowledged, prior to the service, pointing to the difficulty of many locations like Lannom's and those lost at sea. "But for those who can be found, we won't give up."

His group, along with representatives of American Legion Riders, the Patriot Guard, Combat Veterans and the 1st Battalion Mechanized Company A formed a caravan of 80 motorcycles and law enforcement vehicles to escort Lannom and family to East View Cemetery, where the graveside service with full military honors was completed. Mourners lined the streets of the route.

Lannom's change in status was acknowledged at the unveiling of the Vietnam Memorial in DPA's Military Garden, which was donated in 2017 by Magnolia Place Assisted Living and White Ranson Funeral Home. David Johnson of Magnolia Place coordinated and led the brief service held during the visitation that was enhanced by bagpipes.

Referencing back to the initial dedication, Johnson remembered being astonished at the sheer number of MIAs reported at that time.

We must remember each number is a human being," he said. "Those numbers matter. They will always matter."

During the unveiling, Scott Williams, president of Discovery Park, noted that the mission of DPA is to inspire children and adults to see beyond.

"And what an incredible example of that concept was the life, career and ultimate sacrifice of Tito Lannom," he

The newly-updated monument now includes a bronze rosette similar to what is installed when statuses change on the national monument in D.C.

The memorial service, held in DPA's Discovery Center, included presentations of proclamations by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee and the House and Senate of the Tennessee General Assembly. They were presented by Commissioner Courtney Rogers of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services and Rep. Andy Holt.

Lannom's faith was often referenced in the remarks from friends and Dr. Danny Sinquefield, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Bartlett, issued an invitation for those present to find the hope reflected in Hebrews 6:19 that serves as "an anchor to the soul, firm and secure."

In a meeting with the press, Shaw also spoke of that hope and of having time with Lannom on Friday evening and reflecting on what he would say regarding the events of

"I think he would say, 'I'm so glad to be home. Thank you to everyone who brought me home. I'm at peace now, but also joyful to see what this day is unfolding to be. Let's use this day to keep praying and don't give up searches,

shared the words Lannom spoke to her at the close of each day - "I love you" and "Say your prayers."

pursue. And those are the gifts for you today – love well and look to God."

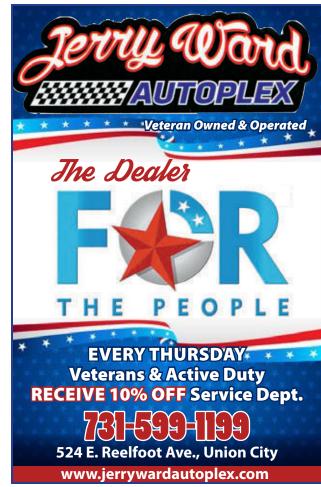
**11am - 2pm** 



**PAYING RESPECTS** — American Legion Riders Post 55 Director Jackie Laird of Dresden carried a flag in support of Lt. Richard "Tito" Lannom's service in the United States Navy during his burial service Saturday. The Riders were part of Lannom's funeral procession.



**BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE** — East View Cemetery was a wave of red, white and blue Saturday as Lt. Richard "Tito" Lannom was laid to rest after being declared MIA 51 years ago in Vietnam. His remains were identified in 2018. Photos by Jennifer Cross







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with salad, choice of potato and drink