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Written by Staff Reports

Friday, 15 November 2019 05:44



Unclaimed vet honored in Gallup

GALLUP - The cremated remains of a U.S. Army veteran who was unclaimed by family members after his death will be interred at the Gallup State Veterans Cemetery at 333 National Cemetery Dr. on Nov. 15 at 11 am.

Former Staff Sgt. Timothy John Clark will be laid to rest with military honors – a privilege accorded to all honorably discharged veterans. Mr. Clark, who served from 1965 to 1973, passed away in the Four Corners area of New Mexico in September 2016.

The urn will be provided by woodshop class students of Mr. Geno Perez at Valley High School in Albuquerque – the same class which provided urns used in a Forgotten Heroes Funeral for 22 unclaimed deceased veterans on Sept. 26 at the Santa Fe National Cemetery.

Department of Veterans Services Public Information Officer Ray Seva says Clark's remains were at the cemetery already, when he learned about them from Veterans Helping Veterans, a local area group. Efforts to locate people who knew Clark were unsuccessful.

Jess Butler, of Rockin J Reawakenings Ranch, says at least two veterans from the ranch will attend the ceremony to honor former Staff Sgt. Clark.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

The Gallup State Veterans Cemetery is located on the north side of westbound Interstate 40 at 333 National Cemetery Dr. It became the state's second state veterans cemetery when it opened on Memorial Day, and is managed by the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services.

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