COMPLETED MISSION REPORT:

Marvin Edward Cooper, US Air Force, Kelso WA

May 15th 2021

19 patriots gathered to honor Marvin Edward Cooper on his Final Salute with full military honors at his home for his Celebration of Life. At 1200 19 patriots staged at the Chevron Station in Lexington to begin the day. We had one new Patriot join the Mission and they were welcomed. Next a prayer was said followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Road Captain spoke of our Hero’s accomplishments and passions during his briefing. Directly following the briefing all Patriots mounted their iron horses and jeep then proceeded down Westside HWY to a final staging location near our Hero’s house. Flags were already pre placed by the Road Captain and the Rifle Squad Captain earlier that day leading down the driveway to a large tent that was the location for our Hero’s Celebration of life. Two columns were formed with the Air Force flag leading the left column and the American Flag leading the right. We marched down Westside Hwy to the Family’s driveway then proceeded marching to the large tent to stage our patriots inside the tent. As the Department of Defense personnel was being briefed by the Road Captain on the sequence of events, the Rifle Squad Captain was squaring away the Rifle Team. At that time, it was brought to my attention that a bald eagle was soaring above once again protecting his Patriots. This happens more times than not. At approximately 1300 the Road Captain announced that Military Honors would begin. The Department of Defense proceeded with the Flag Ceremony. As the Burial Flag was unfolded everyone was brought to ATTENTION and PRESENT ARMS. The rifle team sent the volley and taps was played. Directly following taps the command ORDER ARMS was given. The Department of Defense presented the Burial Flag to our hero’s wife. The Rifle Team Captain presented three volley brass to be with the Burial Flag. The Road Captain then presented an American Legion Rides coin that all Patriots touched empowering the coin. The Road Captain then brought everyone to ATTENTION, Present Arms then Order Arms. The command to RETIRE THE COLORS was given and all flag bearing Patriots exited the area. Once all the flags were stowed in the support vehicle our group has a nice visit from the Cowlitz County Sherriff. The Road Captain failed to contact 911 to notify them that a rifle squad would be firing blanks in a residential neighborhood. LOL. A quick debrief was had in the parking lot then all Patriots were invited back to the Post for a well-earned soda. This Mission was conducted to the highest standards of the American Legion PATRIOT GUARD / FINAL SALUTE Mission. No incidents or accidents happened while supporting the Mission. May God bless our service members, POW’s, KIA’s and our Patriot Family. Thank you to each Patriot that took the time out of your day to stand for our fallen at this Mission. Your selflessness and dedication are an inspiration to all and without you there is not us.