

COMPLETED MISSION REPORT

HONOR MISSION

23 April 2022 / SWE3 Richard "Dick" Thomas Baker, 82, US Navy Centralia, WA.

On Saturday 23 April 2022, 15 Patriots gathered to honor a Hero, arriving on their trusted steel steeds, some of the two wheel variety, and others, four. These Patriots were brought together on this sunny Saturday by their love of their family member, their friend or to show respect for the family. All who were present, were brought by a deep devotion to provide honor to our Veteran Heroes who have served their time in hell so that we all can live in freedom. This day Richard "Dick" Baker was the focus of our Honors Ceremony.

We staged at a local market. While there, we were met by a few patriots who were on other missions that day, or surely, they would have been in attendance as well. The Captain started the briefing with what's first, first, a prayer, said by one a member of the group. Then the pledge of allegiance was recited by all. One of our Patriots this day was the "adopted" grandson of our Hero who shared some touching words about our Hero.

Once the briefing was complete, five members of our group left on two wheeled steeds, to go meet the Family and provide a Rolling Honor Guard (RHG) from the funeral home to the cemetery while carrying the Hero in the "Honor" position. The rest of the group went to the cemetery to set up for our Hero's arrival. Once at the cemetery, we met with the DoD representatives and the Chaplain. As our captain was making the last minute arrangements with the other participants, our team quickly set about static flags placement and other mission details. The Post 17 American Legion rifle squad arrived and was in place. In short order we were set up and awaiting the arrival of the RHG.

Soon, the RHG was heard approaching, the "attention" order was given followed by "present arms". As the RHG guard approached we were at the position of "present arms"; they were a beautiful sight as they slow rolled with 3x5 US flags gently flying in the wind as they approached. Once the RHG was parked and the family was dismounted and in the area of the graveside, the DoD honor guard brought our Hero and his burial flag forward and placed him on the table of honor at the head of the burial plot. Once placed, the DoD saluted our Hero and took up a position close by to await the cue from the Chaplain. The Chaplain said a short prayer and queued the DoD, they approached our Hero, saluted, and picked up the burial flag, unfolded it and held it at a 45 degree angle. The firing detail subsequently commenced to sending a volley of three into the air representing prayers sent aloft on behalf of our Hero and his family, TAPS was played from a position that was out of sight, which made it even more resounding and reverent as it seemed to be played from a ghostly position of Honor. The DoD then folded the burial flag and presented to Tony, the Hero's son. The spent casings were presented to the son as well. The two Mission captains then presented our commemorative coin, after briefly explaining the many hands that had touched this coin in Honor and love for our Hero's family, and the strength that the coin carries because of it, the captains saluted the family and took up a position on the flag line.

The Chaplain then conducted the graveside service. At the conclusion of the service the rifle team marched off the field. The family then requested that our group of patriots place our Hero into the burial plot. We quickly reorganized. The “adopted” grandson was asked to do the placement, he accepted without hesitation. Our captains then staged at the honor table, flanked by our team, saluted, picked up our Hero and turned to hand him to the grandson, who, after serving a hitch in the US Marine Corps was standing at the position of attention, The grandson saluted our Hero, then the captain placed the urn in his hands and saluted. The grandson placed our Hero into the burial plot stood up as the captain gave the command “present arms”, after order arms was given, retire to colors quickly followed. Our team picked up the staked flags, the stakes and proceeded to move toward the support vehicle in a column of twos. We assigned a casket guard to stand at the graveside, as our Hero will never lies alone, and waited for the grounds crew to complete the burial. We then held short briefing and left the area to go to Post 17 Centralia for the celebration of life ceremony. We aided the Chaplain and Post Adjutant in the Post Everlasting Ceremony. A member of our team rendered TAPS when queued by the Chaplain. At the completion of the Post Everlasting Ceremony, we left the area.

We gathered as Patriots all, we stood guard for our Hero honored on this day as the PATRIOT GUARD, united not in name, but in our deeds and love of our Veterans. May we never forget our purpose in this endeavor of Honor, Respect, and love of our Heroes. The love and camaraderie of all Patriots gathered this day was beautiful to see. We left as PATRIOTS ALL until again called upon to stand again.

This mission was conducted to the highest standards of the American Legion PATRIOT GUARD Mission. It was a mission completed to the highest standards of our stated mission; HONORING OUR NATIONS HEROES.

May GOD bless our service members and our Patriot Family, PATRIOTS ALL that we may continue to STAND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE AND CONTINUE TO STAND FOR OUR SAFETY AND FREEDOM.

No accidents, injuries or other incidents took place during this mission.

“For God and Country”

Honor/Respect
Daniel “Double D” Halverson

Road Captain – TAL PATRIOT GUARD WA

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HONOR Is The Mission