COPMPLETED MISSION REPORT

HONOR MISSION

3 FEB 2022

SrA Gail M. Branum, 69, US Air Force, Washougal, WA. On Thursday January 3rd, 2022. Many friends and family including patriots gathered this day at the Washougal Cemetery to honor one of our own. Gail Branum, US Air Force Veteran, Legionnaire, Past Post Adjutant, Legion Rider, and wife of Commander Rick Branum; Washougal Post 122. Our mission on this day w2qas to provide a Rolling Honor Guard for our hero from a Funeral Home in Camas, Washington to the Washougal Cemetery. Our Rolling Honor Guard formed at the Funeral Home, briefed and began its journey, leading our hero in a procession of honor. Simultaneously, we had a crew at the Washougal cemetery setting up flags as well as planning our Hero’s arrival with the cemetery staff. The crew at the cemetery also held a briefing beginning with a prayer, a Pledge of Allegiance, and the mission plan of the day. In very short order we could hear the sound for rumbling wafting over the hills, surely our Hero was in our AOR. The US Airforce Honor Guard was posted where the coach would park. Our Captain gave the command, “attention, present arms”. The riders leading the coach was indeed a sight to behold as they approached. The coach parked as arranged. The family pall bearers were brought forward, and our Hero was honorably transferred to the awaiting plot. The Chaplin welcomed the mourners the called for the DoD Honor Guard lifted the burial flag off the casket, held it open as the prayer were sent a lot, then TAPS was rendered, and the DoD folded the burial flag with great care and attention to detail. The DoD presented the flag to Rick, Gail’s husband. The captain then presented our commemorative coins as a symbol of our deep love and respect for Gail, as well as an assurance that she will never be forgotten. The Chaplain continued his service as we all stood as witnesses as her family and friends said goodbye for the last time. As the Chaplain finished his tribute, our Captain called for “attention, present arms” we then retired the colors in an orderly fashion. We stowed our flags and joined one last time for the day as we held a debrief and a bit of sharing. We then mounted our perspective steeds and 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 / FINAL SALUTE 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.

Honor/Respect Daniel “Double D” Halverson

Road Captain – TAL PATRIOT GUARD WA