COMPLETED MISSION REPORT

Richard Joseph Kowalchuk, 91, US Air Force (Ret), Longview, WA

June 29 2021

7 patriots gathered to honor Richard Joseph Kowalchuk on his Final Salute with full military honors. Richard entered the Air Force on 1 December 1956 and was honorably discharged upon his retirement on the 29th of February, 1972. The day started with all Patriots meeting at the mission staging area in the Walmart parking lot at 3715 Ocean Beach Hwy, Longview WA at 0900. The Road Captain and three Patriots then departed for Longview Memorial Park to set up US flags and square away any loose ends with the cemetery. Our Hero then arrived at approximately 0915 from the Woodland Funeral Home. A Patriot was assigned to guard our Hero as we always do. At 0945 the rest of the Patriots from the staging area arrived. The Rifle Team Captain prepared his team and friends of our Hero started to arrive. At 1030 you could hear the sound of rumbling iron as three Patriots gave a Rolling Honor Guard escort for our Hero threw the cemetery to where we were posted. The Road Captain called all Patriots to ATTENTION and PRESENT ARMS as the hearse came to a stop. The command ORDER ARMS was given and our Hero was taken out of the hearse and gracefully taken to his final resting place. The Department of Defense Air Force personnel then 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 aloft followed by taps. Directly following taps the command ORDER ARMS was given. The Department of Defense presented the Burial Flag to our Hero’s caregiver. 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 and the command to RETIRE THE COLORS was given and all flag bearing Patriots exited the area. A quick debrief was had 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.