

Noah William Nash  
October 24, 2019



As the rich bugle tones of Taps cut through the autumn air, four men stood in silence, overlooking the city of Washington DC, as they honored those who gave their lives for the United States.

On October 19, 2019, in a quiet pocket of Arlington National Cemetery, four board members of the Trumbull County Veterans Service Commission laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery to honor the fallen from their Ohio county.

“It was one of the most unforgettable moments of my life” said Robert Stanton, president of the Board of Veterans Service Commissioners representing the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a veteran of the U.S. Army.

As the clock struck one, the four men, having donned their respective veteran organization hats and jackets, made their way down the adjacent exterior stairs of the Cemetery Amphitheater to lay the wreath before saluting the fallen to the sound of Taps. They were joined by the roughly 150 people in attendance, who stood in silence with their hands on their hearts.

While the wreath laying ceremony marked the conclusion of the trip from Ohio to Arlington National Cemetery for Stanton, Jim Yost, Rob Currey and Jim Young, it was a

fitting culmination of the two days spent honoring their fallen fellow soldiers from Trumbull County and many others.

The day before the ceremony, a sunny, quiet Friday afternoon, the men had spent hours walking through the Cemetery and placing roses on the individual graves of men from their county. Working their way through the cemetery in the fleeting summer air, the men stopped at each Trumbull County grave to gently place the rose and remember the fallen, either from personal recollection or what other information they could glean from the stone marker.

One fallen man was the brother of a former commissioner, another had been lost on the USS Argonaut. Each slab of stone told a story, but it was the collective sight of the graves that left the strongest impression on the men.

“It really is a beautiful place” said Yost, who was visiting Arlington for the first time. “You see all these graves that are organized in such straight lines.”

While the serene uniformity of the Cemetery was broken up only by the variety of planted trees, what really stood out to Yost was the size of the landmark. “I always had an idea of how many people were buried here and how many graves there are, but just being here, it’s just incredible to see the number of graves. It’s way more than I could have imagined.”

Ronald Currey agreed with Yost. “It’s truly breathtaking,” Currey said. “You take a look at the size of some of the trees and wonder how long they’ve been here. Then you realize that some of the graves have been here just as long.”

In all, the men were able to lay down 20 roses on individual graves and honor many other fallen veterans with the wreath laying ceremony.

For Stanton, not only was the ceremony a chance to honor the fallen veterans from Trumbull County, but it allowed him to experience for himself a growing appreciation for military veterans in the United States. “You have these people coming up to you after we laid the wreath and saying thank you. All you can really do is say thank you back.”

Jim Yost, a veteran of the Vietnam War, wholeheartedly agreed. “When we came back from Vietnam, nobody cared about us at all,” Yost said. “Over the last several years, with people learning more and more, you can really see the increase of appreciation for Veterans in America. The number of people at this ceremony shows that.”

The Trumbull County Veterans Service Office was able to coordinate this event with cooperation from Arlington National Cemetery staff and by utilizing their website to request a public wreath laying ceremony.