

PRESS RELEASE | July 11, 2022

Mississippi SAR Honors Pearl Harbor Victim

Liberty - On Saturday, July 9th at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Gloster, members of the Mississippi SAR Color Guard participated with military and other veterans' organizations in the return and solemn reinterment of Seaman First Class John Russell Melton eighty years after his death during the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Melton was one of thirty-five unidentified sailors recovered from the salvage of the U.S.S. West Virginia who were subsequently identified by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratories. Escorted by a detail of Patriot Guard Riders and U.S. Navy seamen, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith and RDML Chaplain Terry W. Eddinger. and Melton's surviving niece and nephew, Seaman Melton received a proper military burial with full military honors next to his parents in the church cemetery.

Color Guard members who participated in the ceremonies were John Taylor, Erik Norman, Ron Humphrey and Mike Tischer. Taylor, Humphrey, and Tischer are U.S. Navy veterans.



Photos courtesy of Calvin Batson

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