



# In memoriam

PHOTO BY KEN HAWKINS

## National program lays to rest 1,000<sup>th</sup> homeless veteran

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Stevenson L. Roy was not the first, and sadly, he will not be the last. But on Jan. 25, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Roy became a milestone. He was the 1,000<sup>th</sup> veteran laid to rest through a national program to fund indigent or homeless soldiers burials.

He died Dec. 16 in Portland and was buried with full military honors in Willamette National Cemetery. Taps was played, a 21-gun salute was delivered, and the flag was folded with precision.

There are more than 1,300 homeless veterans across Oregon, a disproportionate percentage to the population as a whole. In Multnomah County, veterans comprise 12 percent of the homeless population, according to 2011 count, but only 9 percent of the general population.

Roy was born Feb. 25 in Montgomery, Ala., the son of Forney and Miriam Roy. He was just a teenager when he entered the navy in San Diego, Calif., in 1969 as the conflict in Vietnam was ramping up. He served in the Vietnam Campaign during his 11 years in the navy, before being honorably discharged in 1980 with a Good Conduct Medal.

Roy, who has been homeless and was living in a subsidized housing unit at the end of his life, was interred with the help of the Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program. The program gives military burials to homeless and indigent veterans, working with a network of member funeral homes and veterans cemeteries. The program has operated since 2000.

Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home, a member of the Dignity Memorial network, conducted the services. Patriot Guard Riders, in full biker regalia, bore flags for the ceremony. The Oregon Honor



PHOTO BY KEN HAWKINS

Top, Civil Air Patrol member Nick Henry receives the flag from the coffin of Stevenson L. Roy, who passed away Dec. 16 in Portland. Roy was a homeless Vietnam veteran. No family could be located, but he was buried by Dignity Memorial members in Willamette National Cemetery Jan. 25 with full military honors. Above, members of the Patriot Guard Riders, with the motto, "Standing for those who stood for us."

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**VIDA-LEA PARK**  
THERE ARE NO STRANGERS  
JUST FOLKS WE HAVEN'T MET