Patriots of Valor

"For You have armed me with strength for the battle…"
Psalm 18:39

An Outreach of The Prisoner's Web PO Box 6 • Middlesex, NJ 08846

No Man Left Behind…

We have heard that phrase used by people in various situations. The doctrine was primarily established back in Vietnam. The concept is that if a soldier should fall (die) in combat, the body would be recovered at all costs and if a solider was captured, he would never be left behind. It has come to have a universal meaning in the Military for recovering the remains of those lost as far back as World War I. However, in this context, the doctrine applied back to Revolutionary War times!

We have all heard of the famous American Naval hero – **John Paul Jones**, often referred to as the "Father of the Navy." He is now buried in Annapolis, Maryland …but he was not always interred there.

John Paul Jones died in 1792, penniless in Paris, despite his legendary naval career. Gouverneur Morris, founding father and American minister to France, was with Jones when he died. While Morris was willing to provide the funds for a minimal service, Jones was buried in an unmarked grave. This grave went unnoticed for over 100 years until General Horace Porter intervened. After a 6 year search, Porter and his team scoured Parisian archives and government buildings to find out whatever he could. By process of elimination, he determined that Jones was buried in the Cemetery of St. Louis, which was now used as a garden and animal graveyard. Porter worked with local officials to receive permission to locate Jones' body. Porter knew that Jones was buried in a coffin sheathed with lead and had not been moved. A total of 5 lead coffins were identified in the cemetery…only one matched the description from the burial records they found.

The coffin was transferred to the Paris School of Medicine for definitive identification by two pathologists. The team opened the casket and found a well-preserved corpse – lead coffins have been found to help preserve bodies by slowing decomposition. The body had been wrapped in a linen winding sheet and then placed in a sealed casket packed with straw and filled with alcohol as a preservative.

While forensics cannot compare with what we have today, through a series of tests, photos and an autopsy, it was determined that the corpse was indeed that of John Paul Jones. His remains were returned to the original casket, preserved and sealed in an airtight container. The remains and the casket were then shipped to the United States. In a ceremony presided over by President Theodore Roosevelt, Jones was laid to rest in a crypt under the chapel at the United States Naval Academy in 1906.

Once again – ***No Man Was Left Behind!***

Challenge Coins

Shon Pernice awarded a ***Patriots of Valor*** Challenge Coin to Darcy – a Case Manager at the **Veteran Community Project** in Kansas City.

Shon wrote: "*Darcy was my Case Manager as well. She has helped countless Veterans get back on their feet. When times were tough, Darcy pushed through when other staff did not*."

Thank you for your service Darcy – we are proud for you to have one of our Challenge Coins!

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We've Been Busy…

Thus far in 2025 we have supplied our homeless and displaced Veterans with a significant amount of toiletries, towels and other necessities.

Patriot Backpacks

448

Patriot Bags

990

Where Are They Going??

Minnesota… Missouri… Colorado… Queens & Brooklyn, NY… Virginia… Washington, D.C. … North Carolina… Texas
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