

## World War II Veteran Receives Hero's Homecoming in Moulton After 80 Years

MOULTON, Ala. - In a heartfelt and long-awaited event, the remains of PFC Noah Reeves, a World War II soldier killed in action, were finally returned to his hometown. He is finally to be laid to rest in Moulton, Alabama, nearly 80 years after his death.

PFC Noah Reeves was just 25 years old when he was drafted into the Army during World War II. As a farmer from Moulton, Reeves was among the many young men who left their homes to serve their country during a great time of peril. He served valiantly in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest, a prolonged and bloody conflict that took place from September 1944 to February 1945. Tragically, Reeves was killed in action on December 6, 1944, and his body remained unrecovered until after the war.

The discovery finally came in 2019 when the U.S. military identified Reeves' remains. Since then, his family has been working tirelessly to bring him back home to Alabama. On April 25, 2024, PFC Reeves was at last laid to rest in Moulton with full military honors, providing his family and the community with the closure they had long sought.

The return of PFC Reeves was marked by a series of events designed to honor his service and sacrifice. His remains arrived at Birmingham's airport, where an honor guard from American Legion Post 25 in Moulton and Post 15 in Decatur rendered military honors. A motorcade of veterans, law enforcement, and community members escorted Reeves' remains along Highway 20 and Interstate 65 to his final resting place.

The procession was a moving tribute, with local residents lining the route, waving flags, and displaying yellow ribbons in a show of respect and gratitude. The Lawrence County VFW Women's Auxiliary and other community groups played a significant role in organizing the event, ensuring that PFC Reeves received the hero's welcome he deserved.

PFC Reeves' funeral services were held at Lawrence Funeral Home, where he lay in state before being buried at Moulton Memory Gardens. The graveside service was conducted by his descendant, Rev. Zach Terry, and included a full military burial with honors, a fitting end to a journey that began with bravery and ended with the dignity of a hero's homecoming.

This event not only honored the memory of PFC Noah Reeves but also highlighted the enduring bonds of community and the profound respect for those who have served. It was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by the Greatest Generation and the importance of remembering and honoring those who gave their lives in service to their country.