

Jack S. Thompson

(December 30, 1933-March 23, 2023)

On a cool Monday, March 27, 2023, my father-in-law, Jack Thompson, was laid to rest at Marion National Cemetery in Marion, Indiana. A Korean War veteran, Jack was a proud Marine who enjoyed an Honor Flight to Washington, D. C. in 2018. Jack and Vivian, his wife of 65 years, often joined their daughter Jan, my wife of 35 years, and me at the Vernon (Indiana) Sassafras Tea Festival and Civil War Reenactment, especially to enjoy the Blue and Gray Ball. After retiring from teaching, Jack and Vivian moved to Hamilton Lake, Indiana, where he spent much of his time fishing and actively participating in church activities. This location allowed me access to Sons of Veterans Reserve events in Northeastern Indiana.

As his son-in-law and a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, John B. Anderson Camp #223, I was privileged to assist the Marine Corps League Honor Guard to fire a volley for Jack. In my SVR uniform, I joined Charles Moon, Larry Walker, and Conrad Heslin from Tripoli Detachment #844 in Marion who fired three volleys to recognize Jack's contributions as a Marine. Marine Sergeant Torres and Marine Sergeant Sanford of Grissom Air Force Base folded and presented a United States flag from the coffin to Vivian. Sergeant Sanford played "Taps" as we stood at Present Arms. Following the ceremony, brass was polished, put in a ceremonial bag, (with paper cartridge and spent cap from me) and presented to Vivian.

I have joined the local North Vernon VFW many times as part of the Honor Guard for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and a few funerals. This, however, was a truly memorable occasion as it honored my father-in-law, Jack Thompson.

-- Terry Furgason, PCC
John B. Anderson Camp #223

