



# Ohio Adjutant General's Department

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

MAJOR GENERAL MARK E. BARTMAN, ADJUTANT GENERAL

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For Immediate Release

## **Funeral honors to be conducted for missing Ohio National Guard Soldier who died during World War II**

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An Ohio National Guard Soldier missing for more than 75 years will be laid to rest in his hometown of Port Clinton, Ohio next week.

Technician 4th Grade John Kovach Jr., whose remains were recently identified, will lie in repose at the Bataan Memorial Elementary School, located at 525 West 6th Street, Port Clinton, Ohio, from 9 to 10 a.m. Monday, July 10, followed by a brief service honoring him and the men of the 192nd Tank Battalion.

Procession and graveside services will follow at Riverview Cemetery on West 3rd Street (at West Rose Lane), with full military honors provided by the Ohio Army National Guard.

Kovach enlisted in the Ohio National Guard on Aug. 8, 1940, in the 37th Tank Company at Port Clinton. The 37th Tank Company was redesignated Sept. 1, 1940, as Company C, 192nd Tank Battalion.

Inducted into federal service on Nov. 25, 1940, Kovach trained at Fort Knox, Kentucky, before arriving in the Philippine Islands, on Nov. 20, 1941. He participated in the battles of Luzon and Bataan before being captured. Kovach was among the approximately 75,000 Filipino and American troops on Bataan who were forced to make an arduous 65-mile march, known in history as the Bataan Death March, where thousands perished due to the harsh conditions. Kovach died in November 1942 and was buried in a camp cemetery. His remains were moved after the war to a mass grave until 2014, when the U.S. Army exhumed the remains for DNA testing.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Stephanie Beougher, Ohio National Guard public information officer, at 614-336-7369 or [stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil](mailto:stephanie.k.beougher.nfg@mail.mil). Historical photos of Kovach are available upon request.