



Mr. James F. Gatlin Jr.

December 23, 1944

GATLIN, Jr., James F., 25, of Clayland, Florida, was killed in action on December 23, 1944. He was an Army Air Corps lieutenant serving as a pilot in WWII when his plane was shot down in Germany. The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory recovered and identified his remains for a return home. He was preceded in death by his parents James and Bertie Goff Gatlin; and brother Jason Gatlin. He is survived by his first cousins Wilma Shiver of Lithia, Elizabeth Harper of Jacksonville, Connie Howard of Wyoming, and Danella Neely of Destin; and many other cousins. A graveside service with military honors will be held on Friday, January 30 at 11:00 A.M. at Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, and A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 31 at 2:30 P.M. at Hopewell Baptist Church, 6001 CR 39 S, Plant City. Expressions of condolence at www.HopewellFuneral.com.

Cemetery Details

Florida National Cemetery

Bushnell, FL

Previous Events

Graveside

JAN 30. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Florida National Cemetery
Bushnell, FL

Celebration of Life

JAN 31. 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Hopewell Baptist Church
6001 CR 39 S
Plant City, FL

Tribute Wall

PM

“ To the Family of James Gatlin, Jr.,

I did not know your loved one who gave his life for our great country. However, I was so touched by the obituary in The Times-Union on January 25, 2015, I had to let you know. He had to have been a special young man for y'all to have honored him with these beautiful tributes. There are many people who would not have remembered their relative(s) in the way that you have honored James and I commend you for it. In this manner his life and legacy will never be forgotten.

I wish his parents could have lived to see his remains returned to the country that he loved so much, but have to believe that he was waiting for them and his brother when they arrived in that home beyond the sky. The celebration that began as he and his Mother and Dad and other family members re-united in heaven out-shines any celebration that we could have planned. And just think, those of you who are still here, will be able to join them one glorious day.

God's blessings be with you now and always.

*Sincerely,
Pat McClanahan
(912) 399-0738*

Pat McClanahan - March 08, 2015 at 03:36 PM

LH

“ I did not know This wonderful serviceman, but our thanks go to him and his family for his sacrifice. I go to Clayland Baptist church on Clayland Road (now called 193rd Rd) live oak fl. There is a cemetery plot with his name on the stone. Maybe the family would like to know this information. My # 386-208-3675. Lynn Hagan.

lynn Hagan-gentry - January 31, 2015 at 05:48 PM

RS

“ Welcome home LT Gatlin...“His lord said to him, Well done, you good and faithful servant...” Matthew 25:21

I was assigned to investigate your case and the other missing crew members of the "Silver Dollar" when I was first assigned to the Department of Defense.

“POOR IS THE NATION THAT HAS NO HEROES...BUT SHAMEFUL IS THE ONE THAT, HAVING THEM, FORGETS.”

We did not forget you, Lieutenant. Those of us who fought so hard for your identification and return to your family rejoice at your arrival home.

Rick Stone

www.ChiefRickStone.com

Rick Stone - January 23, 2015 at 06:40 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Hopewell Funeral Home - January 23, 2015 at 12:48 PM