

THE PATRIOT'S CALL: *United for Faith & Freedom*

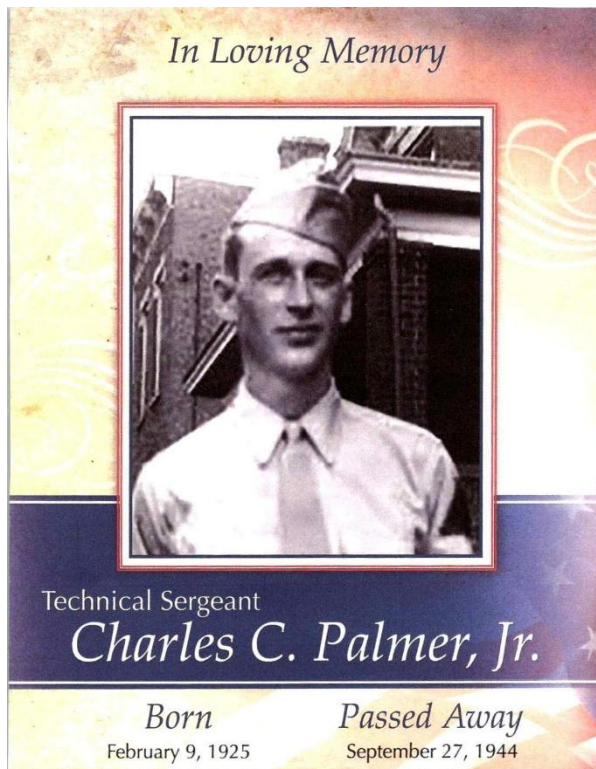
Assembly 1818



Special Edition June 8, 2026

HOMECOMING FOR A WWII SOLDIER

The funeral and reinterment of Technical Sgt. Charles C. Palmer, Jr. were held today, June 8, 2026, at 11:30 AM at Sarasota National Cemetery.



Full military honors were bestowed upon him, including an Honor Guard Ceremony and the presentation of the United States flag to his family. Nineteen members, family, and friends from Assembly 1818 of the Knights of Columbus were in attendance to witness this solemn and long-awaited moment.

Charles C. Palmer, Jr. was born on February 9, 1925, in Griswold, Cass County, Iowa, the only son of Charles and Clara Palmer, who were farmers. At age 17, just before enlisting, he married Patsy B. Palmer of Wichita Falls, Texas. They had no children, and Patsy never remarried.

At only 19 years old, Technical Sgt. Palmer served as a top turret gunner on a B-24H Liberator with the 700th Bombardment Squadron, 445th Group, 2nd Air Division, U.S. Army Air Forces. On September 27, 1944, during a dangerous bombing mission over Kassel, Germany, his aircraft was shot down with all nine crew members aboard. The same squadron that once flew with him honored him today with a ceremonial flyover.

Charles received the following awards and decorations, all posthumously:

- Purple Heart
- Air Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- American Campaign Medal
- European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars
- World War II Victory Medal
- U.S. Army Air Forces Aerial Gunner Badge
- Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar
- Honorable Service Lapel Button – WWII



Beginning in 1951 and again in 2015–2016, U.S. recovery teams conducted excavations at the crash site. A second ID tag belonging to Charles was found, and remains from all excavations were consolidated and analyzed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Through skeletal analysis, dental records, and DNA testing including a sample provided six years ago by his first cousin, longtime Bonita Springs resident Bonnie Rolquin the U.S. military conclusively identified Charles's remains.

Bonnie, who remembered Charles fondly from their teenage years, was recently presented with a detailed military manuscript recounting his life, the mission, the recovery efforts, and the identification process, along with all of his medals and decorations.

The Brother Knights of Assembly 1818 stood in attendance today not only as witnesses, but as a testament to the sacred duty of the Patriotic Degree to honor, without fail, those who gave their last full measure of devotion for our nation's freedom. Their presence affirmed that the Order remembers, respects, and reveres every hero who never made it home.

Today, after more than eight decades, Technical Sgt. Charles C. Palmer, Jr., was finally welcomed home with the dignity he earned, the gratitude he deserves, and the promise that his sacrifice will never be forgotten.





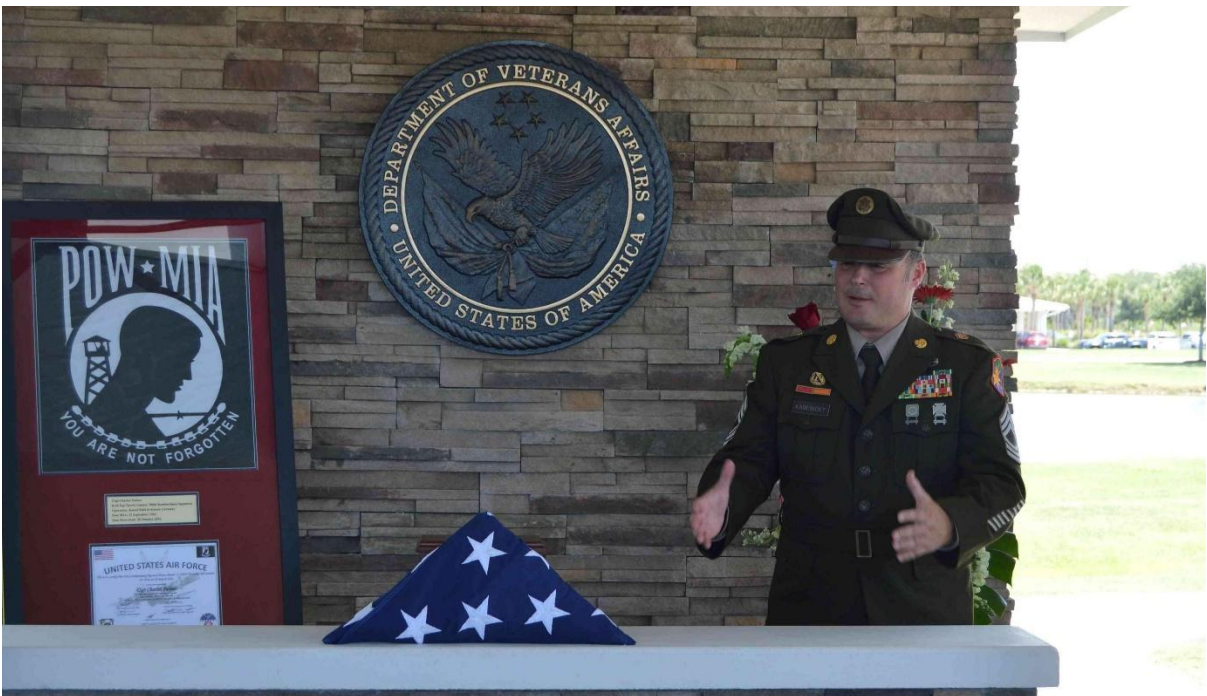
















Homecoming in June for WWII soldier

