



Marine Corps League Desoto Detachment 588, in Bradenton FL, was recently given a box. The box contained the cremains of a Marine, Corporal Marcella Cowan (*Last name Byerly at time of death*), who died of a gunshot wound in 1973. The box also contained her ID card, Certificate of Military Service and record of cremation. It was found in the corner of a garage being cleaned out, and had apparently been there for many years. Corporal Cowan served on active duty from 29 January 1953 to 10 May 1955. None of us knew her personally, but as Marines we couldn't just let her cremains be thrown away. After many calls to the VA and to the National Cemetery Service we were granted permission to inter her at the Sarasota National Cemetery. A funeral service with military honors was held for her at the Sarasota National Cemetery on April 18th, 2018. In addition to the Detachment 588 Marines, two Marines from Detachment 54 and a compliment of twenty-two Patriot Guard Riders helped with the internment honors and bringing Corporal Cowan to her final resting place. May this Marine's journey finally end so that she can rest in peace.

(photos and text provided by Major Bob Fields, USMC Retired)

