



Francis C. Flaherty

March 15, 1919 - December 7, 1941

Francis C. Flaherty of Charlotte, Michigan died in the attack on Pearl Harbor trying to help his shipmates escape from the USS Oklahoma. He was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest military decoration, for helping his shipmates escape the ship at the expense of his own life. Flaherty and 428 other men were entombed in the Oklahoma, which was raised in 1943 and all the remains were interred in a mass grave entitled "Unknowns" at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. On November 1, 2019, Flaherty's remains were identified.

Flaherty is now being brought home and will be laid to rest in his hometown on Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. Residents of the area are asked to come out and show support for this local World War II hero by lining the streets of Charlotte from Pray Funeral Home to Maple Hill Cemetery. Please plan to be lined up on the streets by 10:15 a.m., for the procession that will begin at 10:30, led by the American Legion Riders.

Start at 401 W. Seminary St. traveling E on Seminary St. to Cochran Avenue.
North on Cochran Avenue through Downtown Charlotte.
E. on Lawrence Ave. to Lansing Rd.
NE on Lansing Rd. to Tully Brown Dr.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Previous Events

Procession to Cemetery

AUG 21. 10:30 AM (ET)

Maple Hill Cemetery
801 Tully Brown Rd.
Charlotte, MI 48813

Tribute Wall

SM

“ *An amazing story! Thank you for your service and bravery to our country. Welcome home ensign Flaherty. 🇺🇸*

Steven Mills - August 21, 2021 at 11:51 AM

RM

“ *Welcome home! Thank you for your service. Rest in Peace now. We have the watch. OT3 Mitschke, USN Veteran*

Robin Mitschke - August 20, 2021 at 08:14 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Francis C. Flaherty.*



August 19, 2021 at 02:58 PM

KH

“ *There are no words to express enough gratitude to this soldier for his ultimate sacrifice for his brothers- in- arms and this Country and to his family, as they finally have him home and can have closure. I am proud to be part of the Charlotte community that will pay tribute to this World War II hero, as he takes his final journey to his resting place here in his hometown. Welcome home, finally, soldier! Rest in peace!*

Karen Hard - August 04, 2021 at 09:47 AM

MC

“ Thank you to all involved in helping to bring our selfless hero, Francis Flaherty, to his final resting place at Maple Hill Cemetery. His service to our country and actions in 1941 are a true testament of the greatness and pride he embodied.

Special thanks to my dad, who has helped keep his heroic actions and spirit alive and educate so many on the Medal of Honor. May the knowledge, appreciation and value of our military men and women from Eaton County continue through future generations.

May you now be able to rest in peace Ensign F. Flaherty. The Charlotte community is blessed and grateful to have you home!

Monique Colizzi - August 03, 2021 at 11:02 PM