

MOVED FROM TOMB OF THE UNKNOWNNS

The advancement of technology has caused one of America's most hallowed places to be disturbed.

In May of 1998, the quiet place in Arlington National Cemetery known as the Tomb of the Unknowns was unearthed. The remains of one unknown were exhumed for DNA testing to determine if they were those of Air Force Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie.

Blassie's sister, Pat, believed her brother's remains were among those interred in Arlington's sacred tomb and had campaigned for the testing. Lt. Blassie was shot down in Vietnam on May 11, 1972, while flying a bombing run on An Loc. Although his wallet and dog tags were found near the crash site, he was listed as "killed in action, no body recovered."

On Memorial Day of 1984, his remains – four ribs, pelvis, and the upper part of an arm – were buried in the Tomb of the Unknowns. For 14 years, Lt. Blassie was classified as unknown.

That all changed when DNA tests confirmed his identity. On July 12, 1998, he was laid to rest in the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri. An honor guard fired a 21-gun salute, and F-15 fighter pilots flew the honorary missing-man formation.



Now, the name of a man who once was classified as unknown is clearly marked on the military's standard headstone of white Georgia marble.

Many people walk through life feeling as though they will live and die with the same classification as Lt. Blassie – unknown. Yet the truth of Scripture reminds us in the great chapter of love that we are "fully known" by a loving God (1 Corinthians 13:12). We needn't wait for some new technology to convince us that God knows and loves us.

We simply need to develop new appreciation for the Bible – the book that confirms our Lord's love and concern.

I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know me (John 10:14 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter