

# Vietnam War vet identified as skeletal remains found 49 years ago near Flagstaff

The human remains were found in 1975 by farmers chasing after a pig, authorities said.



*Credit: Coconino County Sheriff*

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COCONINO COUNTY, Ariz. — Human remains found 40 miles east of Flagstaff in 1975 have recently been identified as belonging to a Vietnam War veteran.

The Coconino County Sheriff's Office announced Wednesday that genetic genealogy testing helped to connect the skeletal remains to **Gerald F. Long**, who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

After Long was discharged in 1972, he returned home to Minnesota and told his family he was leaving to move to the West Coast. His family never heard from Long again.

The human remains were found in April 1975 by farmers who were chasing after a loose pig near Meteor City Road, the sheriff's office said.

Multiple detectives and cold case volunteers tried to identify the remains in the ensuing years but failed to make a positive identification. Forensic technology helped to create a DNA profile that was used to establish a family line for the deceased.

Long's family provided a DNA sample that was used to confirm the remains as belonging to the military service member.

It is still unknown how Long died.