



## Staff Sgt. Ralph L. Mourer

April 8, 1944

A World War II hero is finally being laid to rest and his family is able to have some closure from his death many years ago while fighting in the United States Army.

U.S. Army Air Force Sgt. Ralph L. Mourer from Wichita, Kansas, was married and expecting his first child when he was killed on April 8, 1944, at the age of 23, during World War II.

Staff Sgt. Mourer was part of the 732nd Bombardment Squadron, 453rd Bombardment Group, 2nd Combat Bomb Wing, 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force in the European Theater. Mourer was on a bombing mission, flying to Brunswick, Germany when his plane was attacked. He was the radio operator onboard a B-24H Liberator, "Little Joe". Mourer and his other 9 crewmembers went down in the area of Salzwedel, Germany. Allied forces during the war could not locate the crash site and all members were unaccounted for following the war.

Over the years, various organizations such as the American Graves Registration Command in 1946, and the Missing Allied Air Crew Research Team in 2015, investigated and conducted many interviews with local residents in Germany about the Little Joe plane crash. Unfortunately, no matches with any unknowns and limited crash wreckage could be confirmed. It was the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Investigators, between 2021 and 2023, who returned to the crash site and continued with investigations and then excavations that led to recoveries. All evidence was

recovered and returned to the DPAA laboratory by the end of November 2023. Using anthropological and dental analysis, Mourer's remains were identified by June 2024.

Staff Sgt. Mourer will be lying in state on Monday, May 19, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian. He will go in procession to Oakwood Cemetery, where he will be laid to rest next to his son, Victor L. Mourer. A graveside service will take place at 2:00 p.m. with full military honors. Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com](http://www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Cemetery

East Siena Heights Drive  
Adrian, MI 49221

# Previous Events

## Lying In State

MAY 19. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)  
1501 W. Maumee St.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-1400  
[info@wagleyfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@wagleyfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

## Graveside Service

MAY 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

Oakwood Cemetery  
East Siena Heights Drive  
Adrian, MI 49221

# Tribute Wall

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“ Thank you for your service Sgt Maurer and God bless you I'm grateful you finally made it home 🇺🇸🇺🇸

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**Bertha M Looez** - May 21, 2025 at 11:10 AM