

Another chapter for Miller's Vets group

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SOUTH BEND

Robert Miller has a vision. He wants all veterans to receive a proper sendoff when they depart this world. He's another step closer to realizing his vision.

For Miller, a former superior court judge, retired lawyer and retired lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve, it's been a labor of love years in the making.

"I've been dreaming of this for two to three years now," Miller said. "I wasn't sure it was going to happen."

It's the latest chapter for Miller's Vets, a group of homeless veterans who dress in military attire for ceremonies.

A group of 14 has been trained on performing honor guard duties at funerals to assist local veterans organizations, whose dwindling memberships have made it difficult for many clubs to have their own.

"Twenty years ago, they all had a real sharp honor guard. That's not so now,"

They've been trained to perform honor guard duties at funerals



Don Weiss of Miller's Vets demonstrates the honor guard task of presenting the American flag to a loved one of a deceased military veteran Saturday at a meeting at Evangel Heights Methodist Church in South Bend. The veterans group is extending this service for all veterans in the community.

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Miller said. "We believe with this pool we can revitalize the posts so all the local veterans get full military honors."

As it stands, two active duty military personnel fill in for the posts providing a playing of taps and folding of the flag. Miller said his group will now include a full 21-gun salute to honor

the deceased. "I've gotten a good reaction from folks," he said. "It shouldn't matter whether someone was a private or a Navy four striper, they



Miller's Vets honor guard members demonstrate full military rites for a deceased military veteran Saturday at a meeting at Evangel Heights Methodist Church.

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— Robert Miller, retired lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve

should get full military honors. That's what they'll get now."

It's yet another effort for the group to help the homeless veterans, too.

"They look forward to things like this," Miller said. "They look forward to doing things where they are feeling like they are doing something worthwhile. This is something they believe in." "This gets them out of their shell and lets them regain some of their self-respect."