



IN MY OPINION

By Irene Mandra

In late January I received a telephone call from Mr. Kelly McKeague, the Director of DPAA. He called me with very important and serious news: DPAA had made a mistaken on an ID. I'm not going to mention the soldier's name because I don't want to cause any additional pain to the family. I can tell you the family has been notified by the Army and they are adjusting. Mr.

McKeague told me that the ID was made in November after they were exhumed from the Punchbowl in Hawaii. The ID was made using the latest technology -- clavicle comparison. Regrettably, after the ID was made, DPAA found out that the DNA did not match the soldier. Kelly was very apologetic and promised me he and his team were doing everything possible to ensure this never happens again. I can honestly say that I don't ever remember this ever happening. As I sit and think I wonder how that poor family must have felt and the roller coaster ride they were on. I also worry about the good people of DPAA who are in trouble and feel terrible. I know we want DPAA to do as much as possible and as fast as possible but in the end I'm not sure if it's worth the cost. It's like the guy who speeds down the freeway zipping in and out of traffic just so his trip takes 25 minutes as opposed to 26 minutes. All it takes is one accident and he might never make the trip. I think sometimes it's best to take a deep breath and slow down. There's a lot to do in life and rushing along zigging and zagging doesn't necessary get you to your destination any faster than slow and steady.