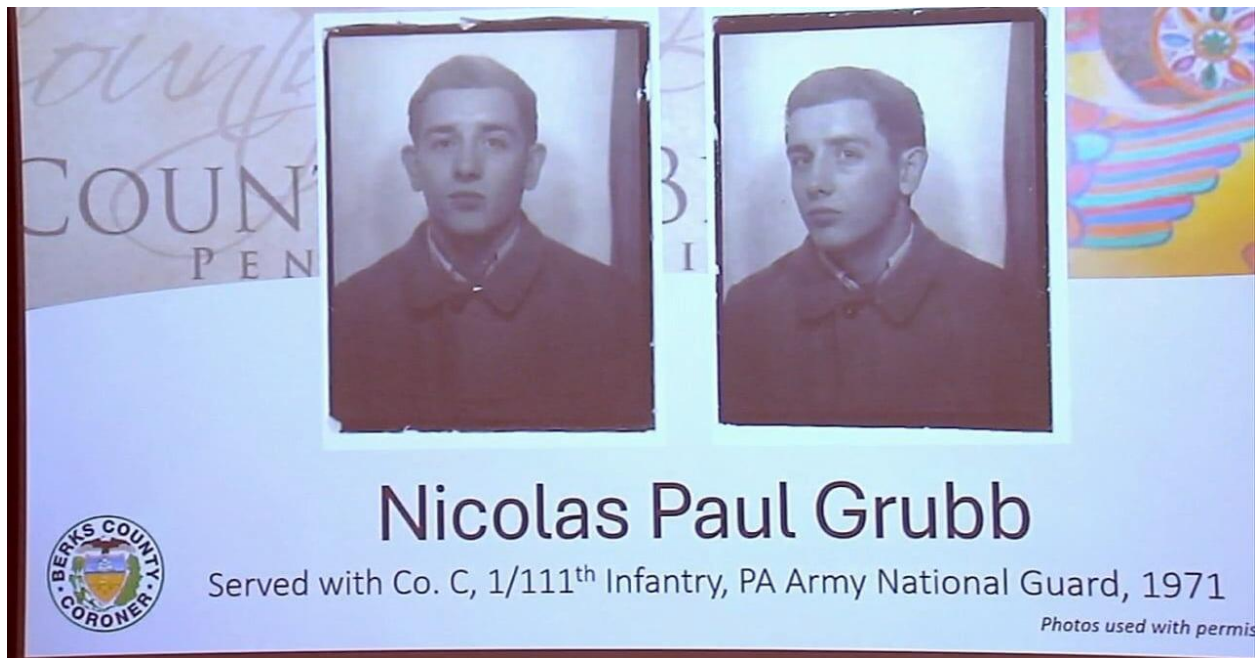


MontCo man identified as 1977 John Doe found in Albany Twp. cave

- Caitlin Rearden, 69 News

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ALBANY TWP., Pa. - A mystery that began in a cave along the Appalachian Trail over four decades ago has finally been solved.

At a Tuesday afternoon news conference, authorities released the name of the previously unidentified frozen body found by two hikers in Albany Township on Jan. 16, 1977.

The Berks County Coroner's Office confirmed the identity of the man as 27-year-old Nicolas Grubb of Fort Washington, Montgomery County.



27-year-old **Nicolas Grubb** of Fort Washington, Montgomery County

Authorities say the positive identification came during a recent breakthrough when a Pennsylvania State Police detective from the Reading barracks located the original fingerprint cards for Grubb.

The fingerprints were then submitted to NamUs, a national centralized repository and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States.

Investigators say following the submission, an FBI fingerprint expert was able to determine a match in less than an hour.

Over the last 15 years, police say no less than 10 missing persons were compared to Nicolas Grubb using fingerprints and dental x-rays with no match.

In August 2019, Grubb's then unidentified body was exhumed from Potter's Field in Berks County to extract DNA and re-examine the remains.

Authorities say both the initial DNA extraction in 2019 and a subsequent genealogical DNA analysis in 2023 failed to yield any results. A facial approximation was unable to be performed as Grubb's facial bones were broken or missing pieces during the exhumation process.

The coroner's office was considering reintering Grubb's remains when the latest discovery was made.

Grubb's cause of death was determined at the time to be overdose of phenobarbital and pentobarbital.

"Nicky," as Grubb was known to family, received an honorable discharge in 1971 after serving with Company C, 1/111th Infantry of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Grubb's next of kin have been notified and authorities say they were appreciative of the combined efforts of the Berks County Coroner's Office, Pennsylvania State Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation and The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System to identify their loved one's remains.