



MEMORIAL SERVICES DETACHMENT

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment Honor Guard (MSD)

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
<http://www.msd-honorguard.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/FSHMemorialServicesDetachment>

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Information, please email
MSDPublicity@gmail.com

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

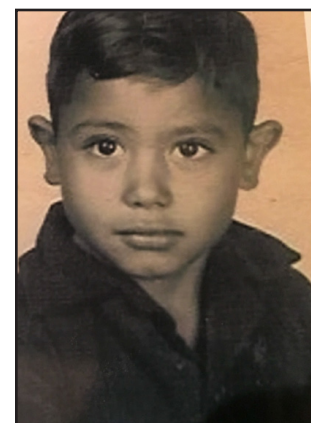


As we said goodbye to 2023, MSD was excited for the arrival of 2024, I was preparing to have a Ceremony to have all our MSD supporters share in excitement of a new bus, a new home, and reaching the milestone of 45,000 Funeral services. Now the delivery date of our new bus will be August/September 2024. We were expecting the bus to have

been delivered in April 2024. Now, the MSD new building at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery will not be ready until January/February 2025 due to a construction issue. We were expecting to move in the new building in April 2024. The Fort Sam Houston Back Swing Café (Golf Course) stopped providing MSD lunches on March 5th due to non-payment from the VA. Efforts are currently being made by VA at Audie Murphy to possibly restart the lunch program with the Golf Course Back Swing Café. Currently, the VA Canteen at Audie Murphy Medical Center is providing MSD with box lunches, we however have to go daily to pick up the box lunches from the VA Canteen at Audie Murphy Medical Center. MSD did however on Monday morning, January 15, 2024, at 0900 in 19 degree temperature and light freezing rain performed it's 45,000th Funeral Service at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. The Funeral Service was for Army Veteran Eraclio "Rocky" Montalvo. Rocky's Funeral Service allowed MSD to reach the significant milestone.

MSD enjoyed a somewhat mild winter, and we are now enjoying a mild Spring season so far. With the hot days of summer, I am hoping the AC will be quickly repaired on the current bus, MSD had hoped to have had the new bus before the hot summer days begin. Let's see how it goes. I cannot say enough for all of our MSD Supporters. Without your generosity, we could not do what we do day in and day out. With deepest appreciation, I thank you.

Manny Mendoza
MSD Commander, 210-722-2582



MONDAY SQUAD



TUESDAY SQUAD



On Tuesday, Feb 13th, Tuesday Squad was honored to have the three oldest members participate in Honoring our fellow veterans.

(Left) Ret. Air Force Colonel, Jay Baker; Ret. Army Sergeant Major, Rick Davila; and Ret. Air Force Lt. Colonel Jose Reyna



(Above) Squad Leader Al Lopez presented Mike Rojas with a plaque commemorating 7,500 hours of honorary service.

(Right) Squad Leader Al Lopez presented Mike Rojas with a plaque commemorating 7,500 hours of honorary service.



During our annual luncheon, Roger Rodriguez presented Mark Jordan, Al Lopez, Keith Wall, and Lawrence Cabanilla with coins for outstanding service and leadership.

TUESDAY SQUAD



Lawrence Cabanilla volunteered on behalf of VFW 8397 at the annual Valero Open as a hole marshal for Hole No. 5 and was a standard bearer for a trio of professional golfers.

George Mozakis' granddaughter, Alexandria Paige, whom he helped raise for her first three years, became a black belt in karate by age seven. She is an awesome soccer player and still plays in an adult league. Now, at 22-years-old, through intense interviews, investigations, and background checks, she has been chosen to be a Washington State Trooper! She will be an inspector, checking commercial vehicles, making sure they are road safe. She started her 10-week academy training on April 1st. We are so proud of her and wish her good training!

Domingo Prado joined the Tuesday Squad, but he is not a new member! With over 11 years of MSD Service, Mingo transferred to The Tuesday Squad as a great, new edition.

WEDNESDAY SQUAD



During the months of January to April 2024, our squad proudly provided honors to 115 veterans and logged a total of 1,532 combined volunteer hours. As patriots, we deeply cherish the opportunity to serve those who have selflessly served our nation, ensuring that their sacrifices are recognized and respected. It is an honor to stand beside our veterans, embodying the spirit of patriotism and gratitude that defines our great nation.

Our squad is totally committed to giving our fallen Veterans the respect they deserve. We truly believe that each veteran should be honored with dignity and reverence, and we feel incredibly humbled to be able to do that. Big thanks to all our veterans for everything they've done. We owe them big time.



Veteran PO3 Jon Brown was recognized with a Department of Veterans Affairs Certificate of Appreciation for 501 hours of voluntary service in 2023 at the Public Information Center, Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Volunteers at the PIC are the first points of contact to assist family and visitors in locating graves, service times, shelter locations, burial information, and VA Internment Benefits. Jon is an essential asset to the National Cemetery as well as to the Wednesday Squad Memorial Services Detachment. Job well done Jon!

WEDNESDAY SQUAD

3 Feb 2024 - Squad Social Event

During our quarterly social event, we took the time to recognize and thank our veterans for their dedicated service to our military community and the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery during FY 2023. We want to express our special appreciation to Pompeii Italian Grill and Ms. Martha Hinojosa for hosting this event and making it even more meaningful.



USAF VET MSgt Porfirio Montellano was selected as Wednesday Squad Man of the Year for FY2023. Monty performed honors for 530 veterans, logging 710 hours of volunteer service with only 5 absences. He played 1060 songs, which included Taps, and Service Songs.



CSM Luis Gonzalez was recognized by the MSD Commander for his contributions during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Luis served as the Detachment Covid-19 Coordinator, where he tracked each individual and provided guidance to the detachment. His strict enforcement of our policies set the conditions to contain the spread of Covid-19 across the MSD. Here are some facts about his performance:

1. Not a single member contracted Covid-19 from another veteran.
2. Out of 109 veterans, only nine personnel were infected with Covid-19 during the pandemic.
3. Once the vaccine became available, the MSD achieved a 98.1% full vaccination rate, with three squads reaching 100% full vaccination.



USAF VET SSgt Richard Puente was recognized for his performance of duty during FY2023. Richard performed honors for 236 veterans, logging 340 hours of volunteer service with only 9 absences.



USMC VET MSG Raul Marroquin was recognized for his performance of duty during FY2023. Raul performed honors for 272 veterans, logging 388 hours of volunteer service with only 3 absences.

WEDNESDAY SQUAD



USN VET PO3 Jon Brown was recognized for his performance of duty during FY2023. Jon performed honors for 271 veterans, logging 385 hours of volunteer service with only 4 absences.



USA VET Luis Baez is sadly leaving us due to work requirements, which will move him to a satellite office in Dallas. Luis served the Wed Squad faithfully for 6 years. The Wed Squad bids farewell to a great team member in Luis Baez.



USA VET MSG Joe Casas, former MSD Commander, Adjutant, Squad Leader, Assistant Squad Leader, and Squad Advisor, addresses Wednesday Squad. Joe is 90 years old.



USA VET COL Alex Bealer was recognized for his performance of duty during FY2023. Alex performed honors for 261 Veterans, logging 340 hours.



USMC VET LCpl Ernest Ybarra was recognized for his performance of duty during FY2023. Ernest performed honors for 288 Veterans, while logging 406 hours, with a perfect attendance.

WEDNESDAY SQUAD

Team Building

28 Mar 2024 – Our Veterans participating and promoting our mission to the San Antonio Community at the Alamo Kiwanis Club's K Fore Kids Charity Golf Tournament at the Quarry Golf Club in San Antonio. A team from Monday Squad joined us for this great event.



WEDNESDAY SQUAD



14 Feb 2024 (ASH WEDNESDAY)

Thank you all for supporting the 3rd Annual MSD Ash Wednesday All-Denominational Religious Services. The service was presided by US Army Veteran, Ordained Catholic Deacon, CW4 Jesse Núñez. This solemn ceremony was attended by a total of 25 individuals, including family members, friends, cemetery staff, and MSD members from various squads. We appreciate your support for our veterans. Special thanks to Mr. Jerry Lefler, our Cemetery Director, for his support.



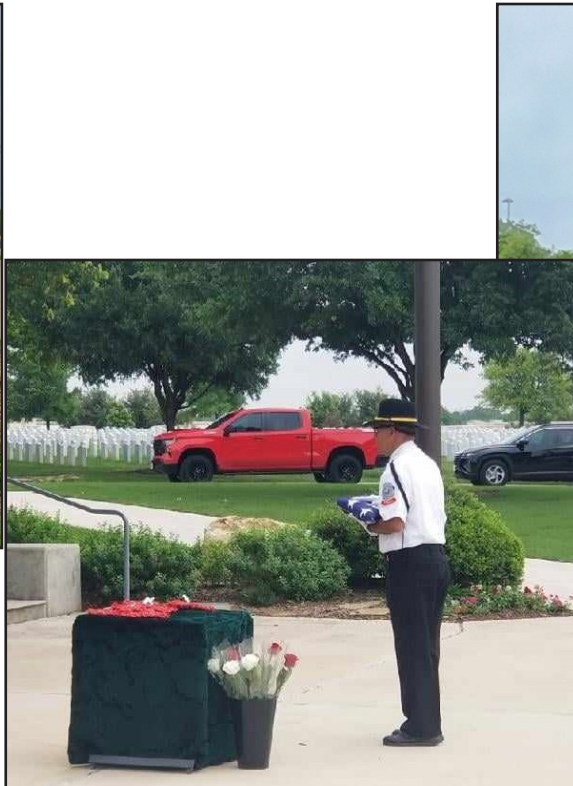
WEDNESDAY SQUAD

Unaccompanied Veterans

On January 18 and April 24 2024, we honored 16 unaccompanied Veterans at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery AA1. Our community consistently shows unwavering support for our veterans. Hundreds of people attended these events, including local San Antonio city officials, esteemed guests, and veteran groups like the San Antonio Patriot Riders. The invocation was solemnly delivered by an Army Chaplain from Fort Sam Houston on both days, reminding us of the enduring spirit of service and sacrifice that unites us..



USMC Vet MSG Raúl Marroquín and USN Vet PO3 Jon Brown



USAF Vet SMSgt John Francis

USMC Vet MSG Raúl Marroquín always does a great job of folding and presenting the US flag with great care and professionalism during special ceremonies at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.



Mr. Jerry Lefler (far left) and Mr. Kim Herrington (Far Right) with members of the Bexar County Military Affairs Committee and a Fort Sam Houston Military Chaplain.

THURSDAY SQUAD



(Left) Thursday Squad was recently visited by Representative Tony Gonzales, who serves in Texas's 23rd Congressional District and is a USN veteran.



(Above) Thursday Squad honored US Army Veteran Jesus Trevino, a prominent San Antonio Hispanic artist who served and was gravely wounded on Vietnam's Mekong Delta. After this injury, he was unable to paint with his right arm, so he learned to use his left arm. In 1972, he painted *Mi Vida*, which was displayed at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in 2019. His paintings were also viewed by then-Prince Charles and President Ronald Reagan. After his death, Mayor Ron Nirenberg called him an "American Hero" who used the scars of Vietnam "to bring healing to millions of people".



Squad Leader Frank Kebelman received his well deserved 5-year certificate and pin



Bob Peterson received a certificate of appreciation as he heads back to Utah to be with his family



Manny Mendoza being greeted by King San Antonio during Fiesta

THURSDAY SQUAD

Thursday Squad at the gravesites of the 17 Black Army soldiers unjustly executed in 1918, on the day before those headstones were replaced by headstones giving them their proper military honors and ranks. 110 soldiers were convicted, and 19 were executed after the Houston riot of 1917, also known as the Camp Logan Mutiny. Many did not receive proper legal representation or the chance to appeal their sentence, and 13 were hung less than 24 hours after their court date. The convictions were overturned in 2023. The executions triggered regulatory changes, to include only allowing executions after a review by the War Department and the President.



Thursday Squad attending services for the 13 soldiers wrongly executed in 1917.



Bob Peterson on his last day as Thursday Squad's Bugler

THURSDAY SQUAD



Group shot of Thursday squad with Victor Ramos and his wife.



Thursday Squad Leader Frank Kebelman presented Victor with an eagle statue.



Manny Mendoza, MSD Commander presenting Victor with the MSD Plaque



Manny Mendoza presenting Victor with a photo montage depicting his time at MSD over the last 18 years.



Victor's wife, Esperanza presented a Certificate of Appreciation from Manny Mendoza for her support of Victor.



Victor was awarded the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Bronze Good Citizenship Medal by Thursday Squad leader Frank Kebelman and Assistant Squad leader Mike Giglio

THURSDAY SQUAD



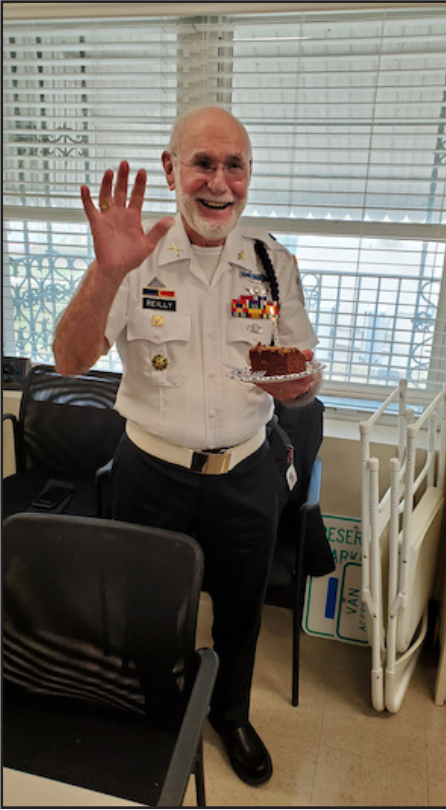
Long time member from the past, Fil Villarreal, receiving his medals from the Army and Air force, from Vice-Commander Steven McCray

Former Thursday squad member Fil Villarreal visited the squad before paying respects for a fellow veteran.



FRIDAY SQUAD

Friday Squad Birthdays!



Billie Reilly's enjoys homemade cake for his birthday!



Martin Urrutia and Tom Earnest share a birthday month.



Even Max gets in on the birthday fun!



Dale Taylor celebrates another year gone by.



Joe Buenrostro, Morris Chase and Sean Habina all celebrate another birthday!



Friday Squad enjoying golf course replacement chow!



Friday Squad's newest service dog in training-Ike is joining Max in his support to the team and mission!

FRIDAY SQUAD

FRIDAY SQUAD'S NEWEST MEMBER

Friday Squad would like to welcome our newest member, Richard Garcia. Richard was born 15 August 1958, in San Antonio, Texas. His father was a Korean War veteran, and became a teacher/coach under the GI Bill. His mother worked as a Kelly Air Force Base Employee.

Richard attended McCollum High School, and graduated in 1976. He also graduated from San Antonio College with an Associate Degree in Mass Communications, he received a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a Master's Degree in Curriculum in Instruction from Grand Canyon University.

He had always wanted to serve in the military, due to his family's history with various branches of service, and he also wanted to take advantage of traveling the world during his service and into retirement. Consequently, he enlisted in the Navy Reserves for 10 years under the Advanced Pay Grade Program and later crossed over into the Air Force Reserves for his remaining 10 years.

Richard served at many bases during his service as a store keeper with the Navy. When he switched to the Air Force Reserves he worked at the Lackland AFB Aerial Port palletizing and loading C-5 aircraft and later at the Family Readiness Center. He deployed to the Middle East, Japan, Norway, Spain, and many bases in the States.

His best memory of his time in service was Japan. He loved the culture, food, architecture, and uniqueness of its country and people. He never really had a worst memory, but the Middle East was extremely hot, sweaty, and tiring even for a Texas boy.

Richard retired from the Air Force Reserve on 18 December 2009 as an E-6. He retired again in the middle of the Pandemic after working as an elementary and pre-kindergarten teacher for Harlandale ISD. Soon, he became bored and worked as a substitute teacher for about a year. He became bored once again and began taking military hops out of Lackland, traveling overseas, which he continued to enjoy as much as possible.

He and his wife Diane and have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Richard always wanted to somehow keep his attachment to the military, when one day he met the wife of Friday Squad member Johnny Sanchez at a Pop Up Market. She was retired from the same school at which he had taught, and she told him about MSD and that her husband was a member. This sounded like what he was looking for, so he visited MSD the next Friday and joined Friday Squad on 18 Dec 2023.

Chaplain's Corner



Mike Giglio, serving as the Vietnam Veterans Chaplain



Vietnam Memorial

Greetings to all Members, Families and Friends Of MSD.

I would like to remind everyone, what a privilege we have been given, that we can Honor our deceased Veterans. Each and every week, we do at least 20 to 25 Funerals. The comfort that we provide for the Families cannot be underestimated. This is an undertaking that gives one a sense of accomplishment. So hold your head High and know you have made a difference in someone's difficult day.

I would like to bring up a subject that I'm sure that we can all participate in a clothing drive for those in need. John Francis from Wednesday Squad and My Wife Rosy both volunteer at Christian Assistance Ministries, which is located downtown at IH37 and Brooklyn Ave. CAM helps those in need, not just the homeless, but also families that have fallen on hard times and need some assistance. If you have any extra clothing, shoes, or slightly used sneakers, you can bring them to either John Francis on Wednesday or myself on Thursday. You could also bag them, leave it in the Armory and we'll pick them up.

Twice a year, May and November, I will be conducting Rifle Safety Training as Per, SOP # 7, I will be contacting Squad leaders with the details. I look forward to talking with all the members, old and new. In May and Nov. I also sell the brass at Newell Savage, these monies are divided amongst the squads.

I would like to close with a Prayer I Say every Thursday after we read the names of our Departed Veterans.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

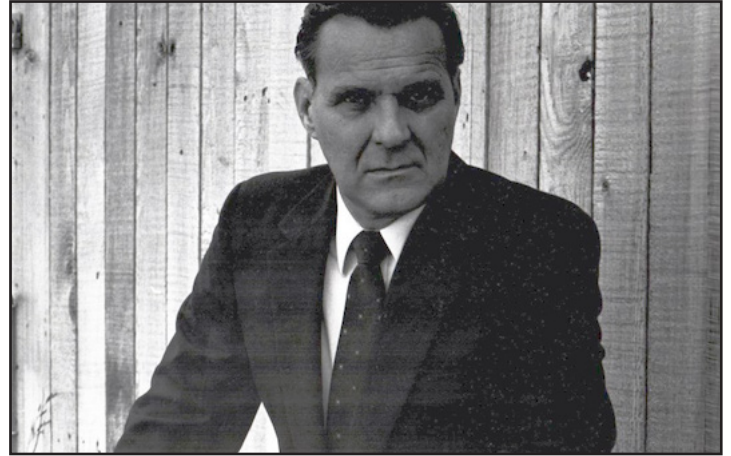
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,

Rest in Peace. Amen

Francis Michael Giglio
Msd Chaplain

In Memoriam

It is with a heavy heart that we announce that MSD Thursday Squad "Life Member" Arthur "ART" A. Cser passed away peacefully at The Brook of Cibolo Senior Living Community on March 2, 2024 and was laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on March 21. Art joined MSD in June 2001 and served MSD for 19 years. He served in the United States Army from 1954 to 1956. After his Army Service, Art joined the Border Patrol in 1960 and retired as a Senior Agent with the U.S. Customs Service with 28 years of civil service. Art's wife of 69 years is Estella, and their daughters are Martha and Louise. He leaves behind several grandchildren and a great grandchild.



We are also sad to announce that one of the founding members of MSD, Valentin Martinez, age 86, entered into rest on January 25, 2024 and laid to rest at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery on February 15. He is survived by his loving wife Diana Martinez. Maj. Martinez served in the U. S. Air Force, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Army and the Texas State Guard, enlisting at the age of 17 and retiring with the Texas State Guard on May 1, 2008, at the age of 71. (Maj. Martinez was in fact so eager to serve his country, he attempted to do so at the age of 16 under the name of an older brother but his noble misrepresentation was quickly found out and caused a minor delay in the start of his service!) Maj. Martinez served three tours in Vietnam during his military career, twice with the U.S. Marine Corps and once with the U.S. Army. He received numerous awards and decorations to include three Purple Hearts medals, two Bronze Star medals, the Combat Action ribbon, U.S. Army, German and Vietnamese Airborne badges and the Combat Infantry badge. He retired from the San Antonio Sheriff's Department over 50 years of service. He loved his City of San Antonio, TX and all the Veterans. He was the founder of many Organizations: Founder of the Alamo Silver Wings Airborne Association, Memorial Service Detachment, All American Armed



MSD Happenings



Fundraising at the Silver Creek Nursing and Rehabilitation Center



Fundraising at The Inn at Los Patios Retirement Community



Fundraising at Morgan's Wonderland posing with a strong supporter of MSD.



Placing a wreath at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in Commemoration of Vietnam's Veterans Day Ceremony

Texas Women Veterans Day

12 June 2024 marks the annual celebration of Texas Women Veterans Day! This date was established when Representative Victoria Neave filed House Bill 2698, which was signed into law by Governor Greg Abbot on June 9, 2017. This is not a separate Veterans Day, but rather the date which marks the anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, which allowed women to serve in the regular Armed Forces. Prior to this date, women could only serve in very specific roles, mostly medical, for designated periods of time, such as during wartime. After the wars, they would be released from service, but not receive recognition or benefits as a veteran. This date also brings attention to the unique needs of women veterans.

While the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery doesn't have a specific database of all female veterans



Major General Mary Elizabeth Clarke enlisted in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) in the final months of World War II and received a commission as a second lieutenant in the WAC in 1949. She served as a supply sergeant and was with the Berlin Brigade during the Berlin Airlift crisis. After receiving her commission, Mary commanded a WAC unit in Tokyo, and went on to serve in Korea and Vietnam. She became the first female Major General in 1977, and served as the last WAC director before it was disestablished. She was the first woman to command a major military installation and the first female commandant of the US Army Military Police and Chemical schools.



Mary went on to serve 36 years in the Army, and after retirement served on the Women in the Services Defense Advisory Committee, chaired the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans, and was a member of the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Armed Forces. She passed away June 10, 2011, leaving decades of legacies! She was described as "being tough, but also a lady".



Another notable woman vet was Brigadier General Lillian Dunlap, who served as the 14th Chief of the United States Army Nurse Corps. She joined the United States Army Nurse Corps in November 1942 after learning of the attacks on Pearl Harbor, and served in the Pacific Theater throughout WWII in New Guinea, Los Negros Island, Papau., Micronesia and the Philippines. During the Vietnam War, she was assigned to Okinawa, Japan as chief nurse of a 250 bed hospital, which she expanded to 600 beds. Her accomplishments include the implementation of the Army Nurse Corps Contemporary Practical Program, which introduced the Nurse Practitioner role in the Army. She also was key to establishing the baccalaureate degree in nursing as a requirement for Army Nurses.

In 1973, Lillian became the first woman in the Army to serve as president of a Department of the Army Officer promotion board. After her 33 years of service, she was a founding member of the Army Medical Department Museum Foundation, and her honors include inclusion in the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame and the Texas Women's Hall of Fame. She passed away on April 6, 2003.



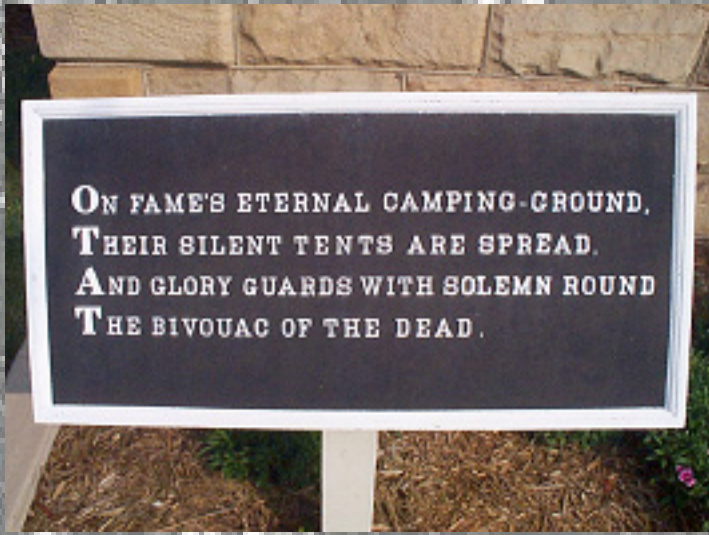
CELEBRATING TEXAS WOMEN VETERANS DAY!



Join us on 8 June 2024 at SAC Victory Center/1819 N Main Ave/Noon-3 PM for a celebration of 76 years of women in regular military service!

**VETERAN RESOURCES
SWAG BAGS FOR FIRST 200 WOMEN VETS!
DOOR PRIZES AND GIVEAWAYS
DJ LADY J
PHOTO BOOTH
AND MUCH MUCH MORE!**

Contact WVSA at
womenvetsofsa@gmail
.com for
questions/info

A photograph of a stone wall with a dark plaque containing text. The plaque is white with a black border and is mounted on a stone wall. The text is in a serif font and reads: "ON FAME'S ETERNAL CAMPING-GROUND, THEIR SILENT TENTS ARE SPREAD. AND GLORY GUARDS WITH SOLEMN ROUND THE BIVOUAC OF THE DEAD." The background of the page is a faded image of a cemetery with many white headstones and large trees.

ON FAME'S ETERNAL CAMPING-GROUND,
THEIR SILENT TENTS ARE SPREAD.
AND GLORY GUARDS WITH SOLEMN ROUND
THE BIVOUAC OF THE DEAD.