



MEMORIAL SERVICES DETACHMENT



Fort Sam Houston Memorial
Services Detachment Honor
Guard (MSD)

Post Office Box 340422
San Antonio, TX 78234-
0422

E-mail:
msdhonorguard@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://www.msd-honorguard.org>

[https://www.facebook.com/
FSHMemorialServicesDetachment](https://www.facebook.com/FSHMemorialServicesDetachment)

For publicity requests/
Information, please email
MSDPublicity@gmail.com

COMMANDER'S CORNER



Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment (MSD), seven months into its Fourth Decade of performing Military Honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, will as of June 30, 2022 have rendered Military Honors to 42,496 Veterans at the Cemetery. Since December 1991 just like time has not stopped, MSD has not stop rendering Military Honors to Veterans at the Cemetery either. As the 19th Commander of this extraordinary Non-Profit/Non Funded All Military Volunteer organization, I enter the Cemetery gate and cannot help thinking of all the MSD Honor Guards that have come before me giving me a sense of pride for what MSD stands for and does for the families of veterans, for the social approval of our cemetery, and for the social approval of the county, and for our state of Texas. It simply is astonishing. We must not forget the contributions all veterans have made on behalf of our nation and specially those Resting in Peace at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Memorial Services Detachment is made up of over 100 Volunteers comprising of veterans from each of the Military services with the exception of Space Force and we hope to soon have a Space Force Volunteer. The average age of our volunteers is 72 years. As I mentioned above, MSD is a Non-Profit none funded organization. We depend on fundraisers and donations to continue doing what we do.

With extreme record high temperatures during May and June, we have had to keep more fluids specially Gatorade available making sure our Honor Guards are staying hydrated. I am expecting this heat will continue into July, August for sure and maybe even September. We closely monitor our Honor Guards and ensure they recognize the symptoms of dehydration.

Thank you so much to all Cemetery personnel working alongside of us and our supporters who are consistently supporting us in our mission.

God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America.

Manny Mendoza
Manny Mendoza
MSD Commander
210-722-2582

Contents

Commander's Corner	1
Monday Squad	2-5
Tuesday Squad	6
Wednesday Squad	7-11
Thursday Squad	12-13
Friday Squad	14-15
MIAP	16
Chaplain's Corner	17
Construction Updates	18
Back in the Day Pics	19
MSD Happenings	20
Memorial Day	21
4th of July	22

MONDAY SQUAD

"The military reservist ... is someone who is twice a citizen." --Winston Churchill

Churchill -- the somewhat legendary British statesman, soldier and writer -- uttered that remark more than 100 years ago in suggesting that a reservist does take responsibility twice because he has one leg in civil society, and the other in the armed forces.



Chris Powers (middle) received his Commanders Public Service Award in 2019

It's something that rings true particularly for one MSD veteran -- Chris Powers of Monday Squad. Powers answered the call to step up and deliver as twice-a-citizen for more than 40 years before finally retiring from the Texas State National Guard in 2010 with the rank of brevet lieutenant general. (According to Wikipedia, a brevet is a warrant giving a commissioned officer a higher rank title as a reward for gallantry or meritorious conduct, although it may not confer the authority, precedence or pay of the real rank.)

Powers is a San Antonio native who graduated from St. Mary's University with a bachelor's degree and double major (history and English) in 1969, then later subsequently earned a master's degree in environmental management/urban planning from UTSA in 1975. Now 75 and still an MSD active member, Powers, looking back now, seems to imply if he were doing it all again, he would follow the same path.

Powers earned his commission through St. Mary's Army ROTC program. With a specialty in field artillery, Powers' first tour on active duty was a three-year assignment with the Army's Third Battalion 37th Field Artillery at a base in Dachau, Germany, where his specific duties varied from battery executive officer to special weapons officer. And if "Dachau" has an historic ring, it should. It was the site of Nazi Germany's first concentration camp, built in 1933 as part of Fuhrer Adolph Hitler's all-encompassing buildup to World War II. "Were we close to the camp?" Powers recalls now. "For sure. We were right there on the same ground."

Back during that era of the early '70s, the Vietnam War still was raging, with Army artillery factoring heavily in U.S. combat operations in Southeast Asia. But Powers' subsequent orders after the Germany assignment dispatched him to the joint security force at Panmunjom, South Korea. That tour ended in late '73, after which Powers returned to the U.S. for release from active duty as part of the Nixon Administration's Vietnam War de-escalation-driven draw down of active forces.

"But the day after leaving active duty, I joined the Texas Army National Guard," noted Powers, who then was to embrace elements of the nation's reserve forces (Texas National Guard and also its State Guard) for the ensuing 27 years. When retiring finally from the Texas State Guard in 2009, Powers had logged 40 years, 4 days in uniform. In the military reserve system that awards "points" for time spent on duty, Powers had totaled a somewhat astounding 3,800 points.

All that while forging a civilian professional career that included tours with the San Antonio Development Agency, City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Water System. "I had great bosses through the years," said Powers. "There was never a problem if I needed to leave my job to serve on military duty. Obviously, my military career, to me, meant everything. I made lifelong friends -- officer, warrant and NCO -- many of whom I still see regularly."

Why did he choose to maintain a civilian career along with the ongoing military commitment of the Guard?

"I stayed in the Guard because I wanted to be in the military service since I was 10 years old," says Powers. "Particularly, the 27 years I spent in the National Guard and nine in the State Guard were incredible. Pat (Chris' wife) and I are still in contact with many of them. We just had a visit from two of our closest friends from our tour of years ago in Dachau. Being in the Army and the Guard allowed me to realize I could do more than I ever believed was possible."

Added up, it's a patriotic story that maps out how the twice-a-citizen road can be traveled. The footnote is Chris Powers' long military-affiliated journey is not yet finito. Eight years ago, at the urging of a compatriot, Ramiro Villarreal, he joined the ranks of MSD. So far with Monday Squad, he's served as a rifleman, flag bearer and flag folder/presenter. "A good squad and a close-knit group," said Powers, "I'm planning to just keep doing this -- as long as I'm physically able."

MONDAY SQUAD

Tom Ballinger-RIP

A memorial service with full military honors was held April 25 at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery for Tom Ballinger, who was an active member of the Memorial Services Detachment for more than a decade, including a tour as the unit's commander. Ballinger, a native of Columbus, Ohio, and U.S. Navy veteran, passed away March 25 at the age of 76.

MSD's Monday Squad -- which was Ballinger's individual unit -- conducted much of the memorial service, including the traditional rifle salute, final roll call by squad members, playing of Taps by Mike Kinkade, and presentation of the ceremony's USA flag to Tom's daughter Thea Lyssy of San Antonio and her family. Final condolences were offered by MSD members in attendance.

Ballinger, who was preceded in death by his wife Sylvia in 2020, was a graduate of Franklin University with a subsequent career as a project manager for La Quinta Inns and Suites.

Ballinger served as MSD commander during parts of 2018 and 2019. He also was an active member and officer of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5133, the Alamo Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America and a member of the reunions committee of the USS Ranger (CVA-61), an attack aircraft carrier on which he served while on active duty in the 1960s.



Monday Squad performed military honors for their fellow former squad member



Honor Guard members from the Navy folded and presented the American Flag. Tom served in the U.S. Navy for four years in the 1960s, which included an extended tour on the attack aircraft carrier USS Ranger (CVA-61).



Mike Kinkade plays TAPS while Robert Ramirez, former Monday Squad Commander, renders a salute.



Members of all 5 squads came out to pay their final respects to Tom, who served as a past MSD Commander.

MONDAY SQUAD

Local Chapter XV of the U.S. Special Forces Association on April 9 observed its annual memorial ceremony honoring fallen Special Forces members who are buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. The ceremony was held at the cemetery's Assembly Area.

The program included a rifle salute by riflemen from Monday Squad of the Memorial Services Detachment, playing of Taps by Monday Squad bugler Mike Kinkade and reading of the names of those Special Forces members buried at the cemetery. A ceremonial bell was rung once as each name was called out. Also, a single rose was placed at the grave of each deceased SFA member interred at Fort Sam.

The ceremony also included playing by Kinkade, of the national anthem and "The Ballad of the Green Berets," the song co-written by Army Staff Sgt. Barry Sadler and Robin Moore, author of the book "The Green Berets."

The Special Forces Association is a non-profit fraternal organization for current and retired U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers, also known as Green Berets. Established in 1964, the association is based at Fort Bragg, N.C., with 84 chapters located in the U.S., Panama, South Korea, Germany, Thailand, Philippines and Okinawa.

Membership is open to any person who is or has been a member of Special Forces, including those in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard. Associate membership is available to individuals who do not meet this criterion, but who have "contributed significantly to the support of Special Forces, or its lineage, in the accomplishment of its mission.



Monday Squad members participated in the SFA Chapter XV ceremony. (From left) Flagger Flo Rios, riflemen Ken Ashworth, Ernesto Gamez, Maximo Guadiano, Chris Powers and Larry Pedersen. Squad leader was Bill Neuiszer.

MONDAY SQUAD

Bill Neuiszer voted new Monday Squad leader

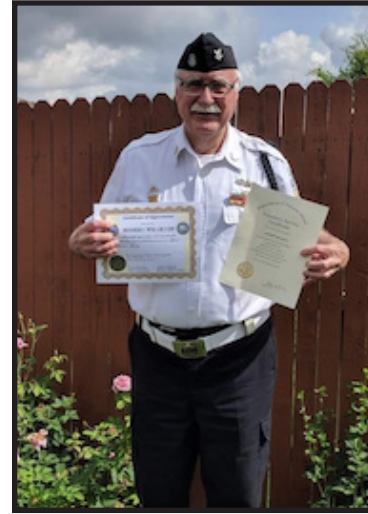
Bill Neuiszer is Monday Squad's new squad leader after serving as acting squad leader for a period when his predecessor, Robert Ramirez, was battling health issues. Neuiszer, the assistant squad leader, was appointed in a vote by squad members in April. Citing his on-going medical condition, Ramirez resigned the position in early April.

Neuiszer, a Houston native and retired Army sergeant major who was a member of Special Forces while on active duty, joined the Monday Squad in 2015.

Monday Squad's new assistant squad leader is Robert Wharton, a retired law enforcement officer who joined MSD in May 2016.



Bill Neuiszer of Monday Squad (right) presented a donation to the MSD on behalf of the Special Forces Association in 2019. Accepting for MSD was former Commander Tom Ballinger.



Robert Wharton, the new Monday Squad Assistant Leader, was recognized for 5 1/2 years of perfect attendance in 2021.

On May 17, 2022, MSD members conducted a flag folding ceremony in observance of Memorial Day at the Bexar County Commissioners, to remember and honor those service members who have died while serving our country. Monday Squad members Chris Powers and Ron Bowren folded and presented the flag. The detail was led by Thursday Squad member Bill Neuiszer.

Below- Chris Powers presented the folded flag to a representative of the Commissioners Court



Above: Chris Powers and Ron Bowren folded the flag in front of members of the Bexar County Commissioners Court.

TUESDAY SQUAD



Michael Rojas (R) receives his Air Force Commander's Award for Public Service from Tuesday Squad Leader Mike Jordan.

WEDNESDAY SQUAD

Greetings from Wednesday Squad! During the last quarter, our Squad provided honors to 91 veterans and logged 1,397 combined volunteer hours. Additionally, we provided honors to 10 unaccompanied Veterans during ceremonies in April and June.



Team Building Events

4 May – During the month of May, Wednesday Squad participated in the San Fernando Cathedral and Alamo Kiwanis Golf Tournaments. These teams' work contributes immensely to our mission at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Thank you to the San Fernando Cathedral Golf Committee and Mr. Frank Sierra from the Alamo Kiwanis Club for always supporting our mission!



DAV Recognition

17 June – During the 2022 DAV State Convention, our very own Luis Baez was recognized as Outstanding National Cemetery Administration Volunteer Award. DAV presents this award to VA Employees or Volunteers for their service to our Veterans. Luis joined the MSD and Wednesday Squad in 2018. Congratulations Luis Baez!

Donation to the MSD

18 May - DAV Alamo Chapter 5 made a \$1,000 donation to the MSD. Wednesday Squad has active members in DAV5, including their Sr Vice Commander, Luis Baez. Gene Carter, MSD Financial Officer, received the donation. Pictured are L-R, Alex Estrada, Manny Ibero, Gene Carter, Ernest Ybarra and Luis Báez



Our Bugler

Special thanks to our Bugler, Porfirio Montellano for providing bugler support to Monday and Wednesday Squads during last quarter. Monte performed over 200 songs in support of 98 Veterans Services, Unaccompanied Veteran Services, Memorial Day, as well as other ceremonies during last quarter. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to duty, Monte.

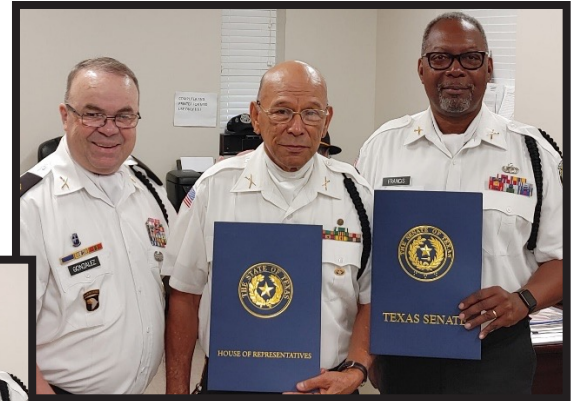
WEDNESDAY SQUAD

State of Texas Resolutions

20 May - We recognized our Veterans for their dedicated service to our Military Community with the State of Texas Resolutions signed by State Senator José Menéndez and State Representative Barbara Gervin-Hawkins, and presented by Wednesday Squad Leader Luis Gonzalez and Assistant Wednesday Squad Leader John Francis. Mike Berumen, Frank Medina, Gene Carter, Manuel Valdez, Raúl Marroquín, Mike Segovia, Joe Casas, Luis González, Wayne Seldon, Alex Bealer and (posthumously) Lou Rocha were all recognized. Alex Bealer also received his 20 year service Pin, Certificate, Eagle Statue, and Windbreaker. Thank you all for your service to our country and the San Antonio Military Community!



GENE CARTER



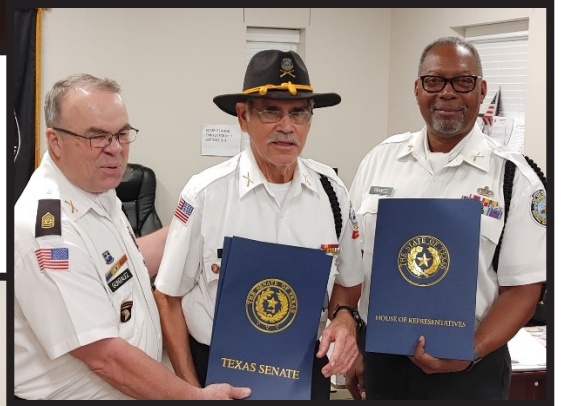
RAUL MARROQUIN



MIKE SEGOVIA



JOE CASAS



MANUEL VALDEZ



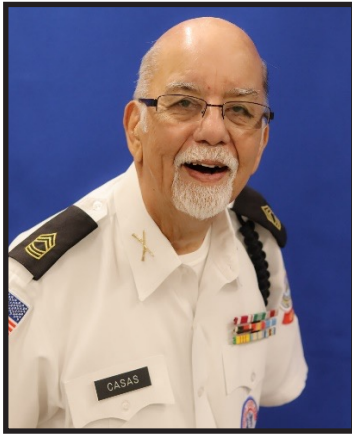
ALEX BEALER
(above, left, and right)



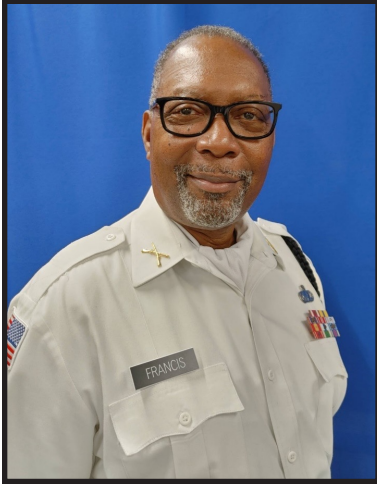
WEDNESDAY SQUAD

25 YEARS AS MSD VOLUNTEER

June 2022 - During our quarterly social event we recognized USA Veteran MSG Joe T. Casas for 25 years of volunteer service and dedication to Wed Squad, MSD, and the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Joe Casas joined the MSD in 1997. Presentations were made by Wednesday Squad Leader Luis Gonzalez, Assistant Wednesday Squad Leader John Francis, and MSD Commander Manny Mendoza. Joe is an icon in the MSD who proudly served in many capacities; as Assistant Squad Leader, Squad Leader, Adjutant 2011 – 2012, and Commander 2000 – 2001. He was the Editor in Chief for the MSD 10th Anniversary Yearbook, published in 2001. He has participated in over 33,000 funeral services and participated in many ceremonies honoring our deceased veterans and their families. At age 89, Joe continues to serve consistently and provides invaluable advice and mentorship to every squad member. Thank Joe for your loyalty, commitment, and dedication to duty!



WEDNESDAY SQUAD



**US Air Force Veteran
John Francis**

Our squad is composed of Veterans that continue to make a difference in our community. Every Veteran has a story, and I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce one of them to you. Here is John Francis' story.

John D. Francis was born in San Antonio, Texas in 1953. John is a graduate of South San Antonio High School Class of 1971. His patriotism and love for our country influenced his decision to enlist in the United States Air Force in August 1971.

John attended Basic Training at Lackland AFB, TX, followed by Accounting and Finance training at Sheppard AFB, TX. Upon graduation from technical training school, he was assigned to his first duty station – Lackland AFB, TX. Initially assigned to Military Pay technician as a NCR computer input technician, he quickly progressed to the front counter preparing military pay documents for a multitude of pay and allowances. After training on Travel Pay, he was given the honor of in processing all staff officers for the installation. John was also assigned to the installation Honor Guard in 1972, for a six-month additional duty.

John's next assignment was to Bremerhaven, Germany in April 1977, where he was part of the initial cadre being the 6th to arrive at the newly established 606 Tactical Control Squadron. John set up financial operations as a Geographically Separated Unit (GSU), to Sembach AB, Germany. There he provided Military Pay, Travel Pay, financial support to the Squadron Commander as Resource Advisor and Pay Agent.

John received orders to Grand Forks AFB, ND and arrived there in May 1982. During his stint there he was assigned duties as NCOIC Pay Service & Control (Mil Pay), NCOIC Accounting Liaison for Base Accounting System & Supply Logistics System, and Chief Aviation Fuels Accounting.

John returned to Germany in 1983, assigned to the 86th Comptroller Squadron, Ramstein AB, Germany. He held several key positions: NCOIC Pay Service & Control (Mil Pay),

Chief Travel Pay Computation, NCOIC Materiel (Logistics) Accounting, Chief, Travel Pay, NCOIC Quality Assurance at base level. In 1986 he was promoted to HQ United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) as USAFE Inspector General team member for Accounting, Quality Assurance, and Accounting & Finance Officer Activities.

John moved to Lindsay AS, Germany, in Wiesbaden, October 1989. There his duties were: Chief Accountant, Accounts Control, Deputy Dispersing Officer and Deputy Accounting & Finance Officer.

John moved to the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center (AFAFC), Lowery AFB, Denver CO, in October 1992. This became his final active-duty assignment culminating a 24-year career. His assignments were Tiger Team Lead responsible for staff assistance and personnel replacement around the globe wherever Air Force finance offices were. He later took over Cash Accountability responsible for reporting correct cash totals Air Force level to Senior Air Force leaders in the Pentagon. John retired effective 1 Dec 95, as Senior Master Sergeant. His awards and decorations include; Meritorious service Medal 3OLC, AF Commendation Medal, AF Training Ribbon, AF Long Tour Ribbon 2OLC, National Defense Service Medal w/bronze star, AF Longevity Service Award Ribbon 5OLC, NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon 2OLC, AF Outstanding Unit Medal 1OLC, AF Organizational Excellence Award, AF Good Conduct Medal 6OLC and AF Achievement Medal.

WEDNESDAY SQUAD

US Air Force Veteran John Francis

John began his civil service career at Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Denver, CO, 4 Dec 95. He picked up right where he left off while on active duty. A return to the DFAS Denver Tiger Team. He filled leadership positions in struggling organizations or organizations identified for closure. As the Air Force Departmental Branch Chief, he led the Air Force Cash Accountability Branch/Departmental Accounting. His branch oversaw accurate cash accountability reporting to the U.S. Treasury. His next opportunity was as Working Capital Funds Branch Chief. He developed effective checks and balances that ensured monthly financial statements were accurate. After promotion he accepted the position as Chief Working Capital Funds, Audited Financial Statements, formerly, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Branch. John and his staff developed the first Air Force reporting process for preparing audited financial statements for consolidation into Department of Defense financial statements.

In 2002, John was promoted and moved to DFAS San Bernardino, CA as the Deputy Director for Accounting. While there he was promoted to Deputy Site Director. The site was responsible for budget and accounting support for the Air Force Materiel Command.

In 2005, John was selected to become the Director at DFAS Dayton and its satellites: DFAS Omaha and DFAS San Bernardino. Combined total personnel over 1100. He provided finance and accounting support to the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), Air Force Space Command (AFSPC), United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), Air Force Academy, Air Force National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and Defense Security Service customers.

Upon his next assignment, January 2007, John was assigned to DFAS Indianapolis with duty location at Randolph AFB, TX. He became the DFAS, Command Client Executive (CCE) for the Air Education and Training Command and Air Force Services Agency. He led 38 Mission Support Accountants (MSA) in all Major Commands (MAJCOM). His staff researched and determined or recommended appropriate actions or interpretation of funding, budget and accounting issues that impacted Air Force, Army and Navy MAJCOMs and their missions.

John moved from DFAS to an Air Force position on Randolph AFB, TX, in Sep 13. He established the AETC Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) branch and was dual hatted as Deputy Chief, Financial Operations Division and Branch Chief over the Mission Enabler Branch. John retired from civil service March 2016, as GS-15. This culminated his over 44-year combined service to the United States of America.

During the span of his career, John strove to meet educational needs and requirements as active duty member and civil servant. This includes: Community Colleges of the Air Force, Financial Management, AA., Business & Management, BS with Accounting concentration, University of Maryland (European Division), Management & Leadership, MBA, Webster University, The Air Training Command (ATC) Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) Leadership School (E4), United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) NCO Academy (E6), Air Force Senior NCO Academy (E8), Financial Manager's Staff Officers Course (FM-SOC), and Professional Military Comptroller Course (PMCS).

He holds certifications as: Lean 6-Six Sigma Green Belt and American Society of Military Comptrollers, Certified Defense Financial Manager. John belongs to the Air Force Sergeants' Association and American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC). John continues to serve and volunteer with the Christian Assistance Ministries (CAM) where he receives donations on Mondays and works the client intake desk on Tuesdays. John is a Memorial Services Detachment (MSD), Wednesday team member and is assistant squad leader.

John is married to the former Silvia Heins, Bremerhaven, Germany. They have two children: John Francis II, Lt Col, AF Reserves, Los Angeles AFB, CA, and Ms. Jacqueline Francis, 1st grade teacher Berlin Brandenburg International School (BBIS), in Berlin, Germany.

THURSDAY SQUAD



Victor Ramos;

Victor Has been with MSD since 2006 and has filled many roles to include Squad Leader, Rifleman, and many other duties. Victor served in the United States Army and completed a tour in Vietnam from 1967-1968, He served with the 18th Engineer Brigade. Victor has also been with the VFW Post Honor Guard.

After Victor's military service, he trained at Wilford Hall as an Anesthesiologist Technician, retiring from the Baptist Health Care System after 25 years.

Victor married his beautiful bride Espranza in 1968 and they have two children, Brenda and Melinda. They also sadly lost two children, Esperanza and Victor. They have been blessed with three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Victor has been with MSD for quite a while and we hope he will be with us for quite awhile longer!



Deb Eaton received her 100 and 200 hours pin from Squad Leader Frank Kebelman



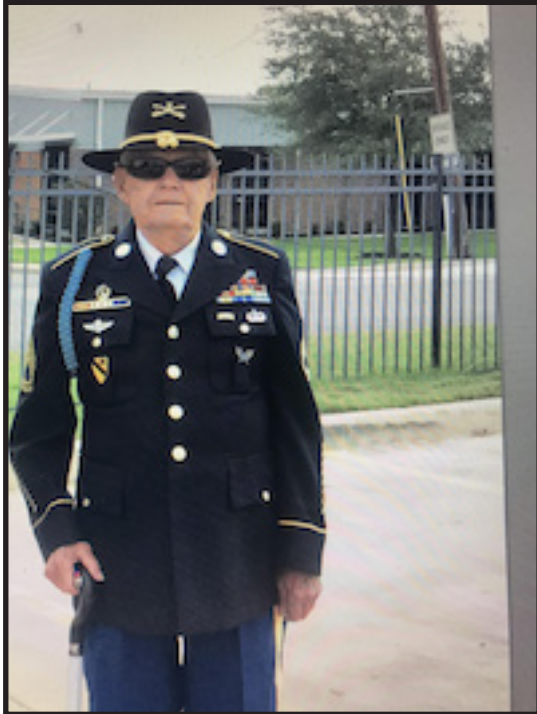
Richard Mendoza accepted the US Flag on behalf of a veteran's family for a service that was being live streamed.

In between services on Thursdays, Squad Leader Frank Kebelman shares his vast knowledge of cemetery history.

This is the gravestone of BGen David Lee "Tex" Hill. He was a member of the Flying Tigers during WW II. John Wayne based his portrayal in the Movie "Flying Tigers" on him. Tex Hill Middle School in Terrell Hills is named after him.



THURSDAY SQUAD



Nolan Martin joined MSD in 2001 and has been a member ever since.

Nolan had a very distinguished Army career, after being drafted in 1950 he became an Airborne Ranger, Special Forces. His first overseas assignment was Korea, followed by a tour in Germany. 1961 -1962 found him in Vietnam training Vietnamese forces. In 1965, Nolan was assigned to the 1st Battalion (Air Mobile), 7th Cavalry. It was at the Battle of the Ia-Drang Valley that Nolan was awarded the Silver Star. This was the first major battle of the Vietnam War and it was terror unimaginable. After another tour in Germany, Nolan was back in Vietnam from July 1967 to November 1968.

After Nolan's Military career, he went on to teach School for a while. He also drove a big rig truck after teaching himself to drive a Kenmore Semi-truck. Nolan had a 20 year career driving trucks. A heart attack forced him to give up driving the Big Rigs. He has one son, Carl, with wife Jutta.

Nolan has been with us for quite a long while and we hope that he's with us for quite a while longer!



Thursdays Squad past and present members-Rey Vela, Jose Jones, Manny Mendoza, Marty Robles, Roberto Vela, and Victor Ramos



Members of Thursdays squad perform military honors for a Marine veteran's funeral.

FRIDAY SQUAD

Like the other squads, we had numerous Air Force Civilian Service Awards presented during the quarter, along with bugler Dale Taylor receiving his ten year service pin and certificate. Dale was an Army musician during his military career and actually joined MSD on a limited basis prior to his retirement. We are very proud to have Dale as our Friday bugler.

The squad would like to extend a hearty welcome back to Maverick Neubert. Mav had been out since early in the pandemic with various health issues. He is on the mend and back to participating with the team!



MIKE HOFFMAN



ED FARLEY



MORRIS CHASE



GORDON BREWER



DALE TAYLOR



(Left) SEÁN
HABINA

(Right) JOE
BUENROSTRO



FREDDIE WILSON



GENE BRANDON



JACK BRANSON



TOM EARNEST

FRIDAY SQUAD



(Left) Tony Grauzer, former Friday Squad Assistant Squad Leader, came out to celebrate Tom Earnest's birthday with the rest of the squad.
(Above) Friday Squad Leader Randy Brown lights the candles for Tom's birthday cake.



(Left) Friday Squad celebrated the May birthdays of Mike Hoffman, Dale Taylor, Terry Spence, Ed Farley, and Morris Chase.

(Below 2) Members of the squad peruse the MSD 30 year book, published in April.



(Left) Ron Larson received his 5 year rocker and certificate from Friday Squad Leader Randy Brown



MIAP

In April, Friday Squad as well as other community organizations supported the Missing in America Project (MIAP) ceremony. MIAP is a nonprofit foundation that strives to locate, identify and lay to rest the unclaimed remains of American veterans. Each year, MIAP along with other groups throughout the nation, investigates unclaimed cremated remains to determine if any are veterans with the help of volunteers of the organization in a mission to give proper honors to those who served. Eight urns carrying ashes of fallen Navy, Army and Air Force veterans were escorted by members of the Patriot Guard and the Texas Department of Public Service, and then reverently carried, along with folded flags, by the MacArthur Junior ROTC. The flags and urns were then presented by a joint service honor guard, who also folded and presented the final flag. MSD provided full military honors to the fallen veterans, providing the final salute for their service to our country.



(Far left) A Joint Service Honor Guard folded a flag for presentation during the ceremony.



(Left) Members of the Joint Service Honor Guard presented a flag to representatives accepting on behalf of the fallen veterans.

(Below) Friday Squad provided military honors



(Above and right) Members of the Patriot Guard both escorted the urns, and lined the sidewalks, where the urns were then carried by the MacArthur JROTC cadets.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Greetings to all MSD Members, and Their Families and Friends everywhere!

As I write this newsletter, I am astonished by all the happenings around the world, including our own Country. I won't go into any of the political issues that seem to effect all of us in one way or the other. We all have our own opinions and you know what they say about opinions.

I would like to give a big Welcome to all our new members, seems like each Squad had received new Members, My own Squad, Thursday's has 3 new members, We certainly need them, as we have lost several members this last year, it's the only way we can have The Memorial Services Detachment continue to provide Services to our departed Veterans. You only have to look at the plaque in the upstairs duty room to see all the past members who have gone before us. God Bless them All!

One of the biggest Holidays just passed us, the 4th of July. MSD provided an Honor Guard for the Ceremony, held at the Ft Sam Houston Cemetery. All across this nation, Americans celebrated our Independence from Great Britain in 1776. There were Fireworks, Parades and of course cookouts, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and in Texas-Fajitas!

But let us not forget what it took for us to become this Great Nation. The American Revolution was a eight year war, 1775-1783. The number of American Casualties was estimated to be anywhere from 30,000 to 50,000. 4 out of 5 American POW'S Died in British Prison Ships. Their sacrifice and all the Patriots in this long grueling War should be remembered for all Time.

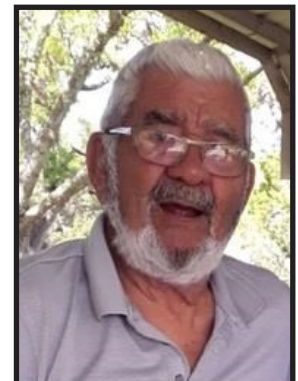
In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy and fun filled Summer.

Francis Mike Giglio
MSD Chaplain

Arturo Cortez, 1931-2022

Arturo Cortez, a past member of MSD (Tuesday Squad) who joined in 1992, recently passed away. Thursday squad performed honors at his service on 26 May. According to his obituary, he was born on December 13, 1931, and passed away peacefully on May 7, 2022 at the age of 90 years old. He is preceded in death by his loving wife of 63 years, Mary Louise Cortez, oldest son, Arturo Cortez, Jr., mother, Basilia Cortez Geronimo, and father, Maydaleno Murillo. He is survived by 6 children, 18 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren.

He was born in Saspamco, lived and raised his family in San Antonio and retired to Bandera, Texas. He served in the Army from 1950 to 1952 and was a Decorated Korean War Veteran. He was wounded on September 7, 1951, and returned to the 35th Infantry Regiment after spending 3 months in an Osaka, Japan Hospital, finally returning home in June of 1952. He received his Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Combat Medical Badge, United National Service Medal and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, in November of 1999, thanks to Commander Dick Allwein of the American Legion Post 157 in Bandera, TX and U.S. Representative Lamar Smith. He retired in 1987 from Civil Service at Kelly AFB, where he worked as an Engineering Technician for over 35 years.

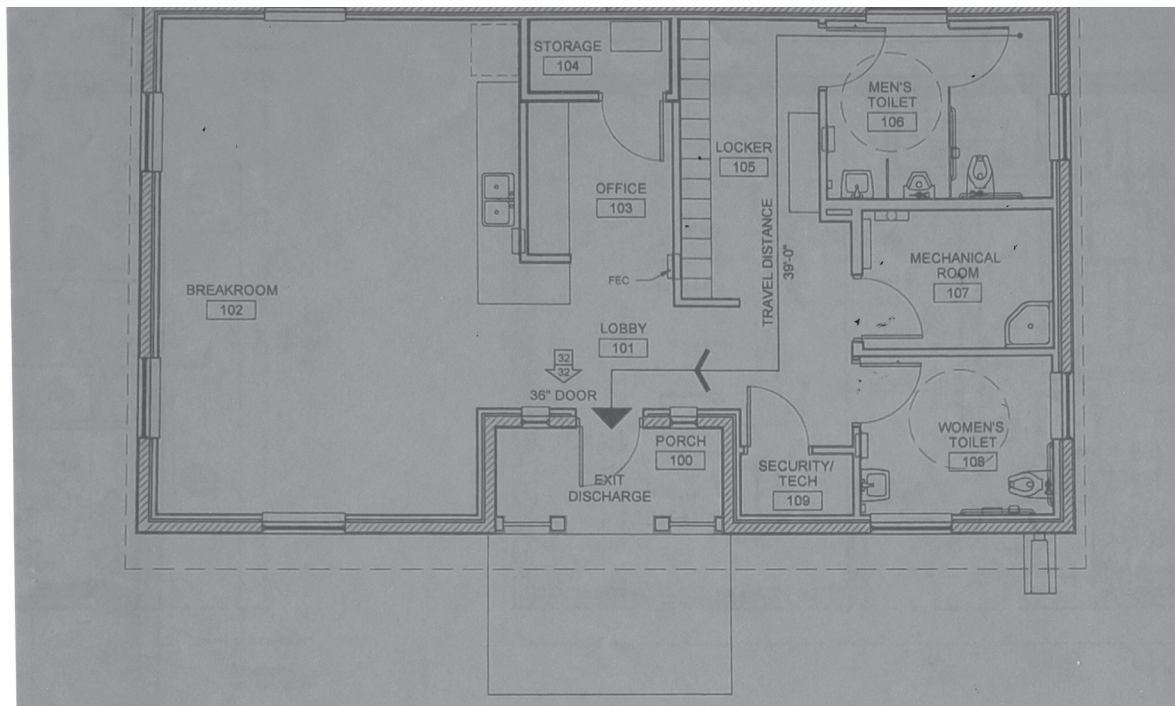
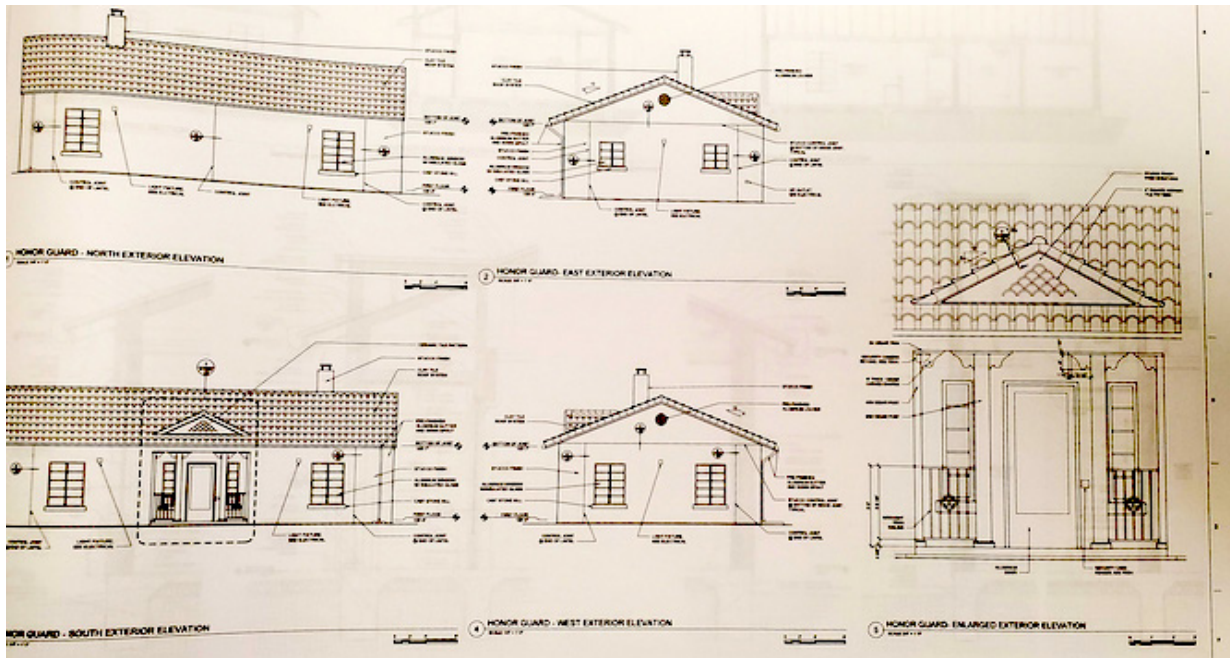


CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

A few updates from Randy Brown/Friday Squad about upcoming construction! Attached are the floor plan and a picture of the exterior elevations of the building. The front door of the building will face the stairwell we use to access the armory. The roof, color and exterior appearance will mimic the PIC.

Parking will be impacted during construction-the contractor will close off all but the 2 handicap slots and three normal slots in front of the PIC. Because of this, we will not be able to park the bus on the curve to load and unload. We will probably need to load/unload over by the storage building where the golf cart is stored. We should still have some of the current spots that we use for POV parking, as well as parking by the storage shed.

Current plans include a small armory in the new building so the excess rifles can be stored there. This should make accessing the weapons somewhat easier when required!



Back in the Day Pics

1-THURSDAY SQUAD



2-WEDNESDAY SQUAD



3-WEDNESDAY SQUAD



4-WEDNESDAY SQUAD



5-WEDNESDAY SQUAD



6-WEDNESDAY SQUAD



- 1-Nolan Martin
- 2-Richard Puente
- 3-Manuel Valdez
- 4-Alex Bealer
- 5-Luis Gonzalez
- 6-Alex Estrada

MSD HAPPENINGS



In May, the MSD Color Guard, led by Mark Jordan, posted the colors for the 2022 National Veterans Summit, held by the National Diversity Council at Aligned Mortgage.

(Left)-Frankie Farris led the team past the stage for the ceremony.

(Right)-Frankie Farris and Jack Branson were highlighted on the post event marketing.

(Below right) Frankie Farris, Mark Jordan, Jack Branson, and Johnny Sanchez presented the colors for the event.



The Helotes Festival Association (HFA) chose the Memorial Services Detachment (MSD) for recognition at the Cornyval Rodeo Military Appreciation Night In Helotes on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

(Left) Members of all 5 squads represented MSD by being announced while a video of one of our funeral services played in the background.

(Bottom left) Flo Rios, Debra Eaton, and Deb Parsons stay cool before the start of the event.

(Bottom) Deb Parsons, Debra Eaton, Steven McCray, Richard Puente, Porfirio Montellano, Rogelio Rodriguez, Flo Rios, Leon Potillo, and Juan Rodriguez assemble before marching out in the arena.



Memorial Day

On 30 May 2022, hundreds of attendees crowded the assembly area for the first public Memorial Day ceremony since 2019, after which the 2020 and 2021 public ceremonies were canceled due to COVID.

The Saturday before, Robert Masten led his fellow American Legion members in reading the names of 3,257 veterans that had been buried at the cemetery — the largest number since the initial reading in 2010. The day before the ceremony, the non-profit Flags for Fallen Vets led over 3,000 volunteers in placing 127,000 flags on each grave/columbarium on the cemetery.

The ceremony was led by Robert Reyes of Friday Squad, and emcee'd by Deb Parsons, also of Friday Squad, carrying on the legacy left by Tom Earnest, who led the ceremony for many years. The colors presentation was conducted by the Douglas MacArthur High School Army JROTC, with musical performances by 323rd Army Band "Fort Sams's Own" and the Alamo Metro Chorus. The guest speakers were Maj Jack Nichols, USAF (Ret) and The Honorable Donald M. Remy, Deputy Secretary for Veterans Affairs.



(Above) Hundreds of attendees gathered for this year's ceremony, the first since 2019.



(Above Right) Deb Parsons, Friday Squad, narrated the ceremony, which was led by Robert Reyes, also from Friday Squad.



(Above) Porfirio Montellano of Wednesday Squad played TAPS for the ceremony



(Left) Each gravestone was adorned with an American Flag, placed by volunteers with Flags for Fallen Vets

4th of July

As is with tradition, the 4th of July was commemorated at the assembly area on Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. The event featured appearances by the Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez San Antonio Chapter's color guard, fife and drum corps, and musket detail, plus a presentation of wreaths and roll call of the 13 Colonies. Members of the MSD Color Guard provided military honors, with Mark Jordan of Tuesday Squad playing TAPS.



(Above right) The Order of Granaderos y Damas de Galvez San Antonio Chapter's color guard and fife and drum corps presented colors and provided patriotic music for the ceremony. (Right) The musket detail fired volleys to for each of the 13 original colonies.



(Left) A large crowd gathered for the ceremony, which included wreath presentations from many local organizations. (Below) The MSD Color Guard provided honors, accompanied by Mark Jordan with the playing of TAPS.

