



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>

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

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On December 17, 2024, the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment (MSD) celebrated its most successful year of its 32 year journey as an IRS 501 (a)(c)(19) Non Profit/Non Funded Funeral Honor Guard Organization. MSD performs Military Honors to veterans on the day of their funeral at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Monday through Friday year round. Since December 17, 1991, MSD has rendered Military Honors to over 46,000 veterans. In December 2024, A most successful accomplishment was when MSD reached 5 years of planning for a purchase a new bus to replace the old bus that was coming to the end its serviceable period. MSD through Fundraising and donations was able to purchase a brand new bus for \$105,000.00. This Bus will continue to transport MSD Honor Guards from funeral to funeral to perform Military Honors to Veterans at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery for decades to come. Additionally, the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery designated a brand new building to house the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment (MSD) . This building will be home to many Generations to come of MSD Honor Guards. MSD 2024 Success could not have been possible without your support. Thank you everyone.

With Sincere Appreciation;
Manny Mendoza
MSD Commander



MSD COMMANDER MANNY MENDOZA GREET'S SAN ANTONIO TEXAS CAVALIERS KING ANTONIO TO MSD FUND RAISING TABLE AT MORGAN'S WONDERLAND FIESTA EVENT IN MARCH 2024



Pictured are: Center CDR Manny Mendoza, laying down is Service Leader Guard "MAX" Members L-Row Ron Henspoon, William "Billie" Reilly, Gordon Brewer, Eugene "Gene" Brandon, Rahoy Brown-Squad Leader, Luis Reyes, R-Row Robert Reyes, Ronald "Ron" Larson, Michael Hoffman-Asst. Squad Leader, Jack Branson, Edwin Delacruz, Joyce "Sean" Habina, Maverick Neubert. "A MOMENTOUS MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF MSD"

MSD FRIDAY SQUAD ON FRIDAY MAY 17, 2024 INAUGURATED A NEW BUILDING AT FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY THAT WILL SERVE AS THE HOME FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MSD MEMBERS VOLUNTEERING AS FUNERAL HONOR

MSD MOVES INTO NEW BUILDING

MONDAY SQUAD

MONDAY SQUAD VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Chris Powers was recognized as the Monday Squad Volunteer of the year. Chris has been a member of the MSD Monday Squad for over 10 years. He has been a reliable Rifleman, Flagger and Flag Folder when needed. Chris served in the Active Army and Army National Guard, where he retired as a LTC. Chris went on to serve the State of Texas in the Texas Guard where his experience and Abilities led to him being the Adjutant General of the State Guard with the rank of a Lieutenant General in the State Guard. We are proud to recognize Chris for his contributions to Monday Squad and MSD!



In the past few months, Steven Shaffer and James Payton collaborated on new leather straps for our M1 Garand weapons. Monday Squad member James Payton is a professional leather craftsman and owner operator of JP Leather. James donated the supplies and his labor totaling \$675 to provided 15 Leather Straps which he completed on 9 December 2024. Photos of affixed straps so we can continue to proudly perform services for our fellow Veterans.



MONDAY SQUAD

John Hernandez, Monday Squad Bugler, has taken on the job of refinishing our rifle stocks. Even though we are being gifted new stocks, everyone knows the stocks do not last forever and if any need to be replaced we will have very nice stocks available for our rifles. Thank you John!



TUESDAY SQUAD



First, we welcome our newest member to Tuesday's Squad is Bryan Teague. Bryan E. Teague was born in Great Falls, Montana, on October 7, 1958. His father was a mechanical engineer working on designing the rolling of copper cable, which is used worldwide today and transmits electrical signals, such as data, voice, and video, from one location to another. This includes the electrical wire used in building houses and cities worldwide.

Due to his career ladder, the family moved from Great Falls, MT to Monsey, New York; Spring Valley, New York; Great Falls, Montana; Sycamore, Illinois; and Milford, Connecticut, from 1960 to 1976.

Bryan graduated college from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1980, received his Second Lieutenant commission, and was branched Armor. So, what is an Armor officer? An Armor officer (12A) is "responsible for tank and cavalry operations on the battlefield. You'll lead operations specific to the Armor branch, like reconnaissance, and lead others in many areas of combat operations."

Being no stranger to travel, he went to Fort Knox, KY, for the Officer Basic Course. Then, Fort Benning, GA, for Airborne and Ranger School. After graduation, he hopped on a plane and was headed to Friedberg, FRG to be a tank platoon leader, support platoon leader, and company executive officer in the 3d Battalion, 32nd Armor Battalion, 3rd Armored Division; then back to Fort Knox, KY for the Officer Advanced Course followed by Ft Hood, TX to serve as the Deputy G-1 for the 1st Cavalry Division, then 1st Brigade, 1st Cav Division as the Adjutant; then Battalion Assistant S-3 for 2/7 Cavalry, HHC, 2/5 Cavalry Commander, followed by Combined Arms Staff Services School at Ft Leavenworth, KS. Bryan then taught ROTC as an assistant professor of Military Science at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. While there, he completed the Command and General Staff College and returned to Ft. Hood, TX, to work for the Deputy Commanding General of III Corps and Ft. Hood. After about 8 months, he was tasked to go on a short-notice deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to be the Deputy J-1 for Joint Task Force 160, caring for the Haitian and Cuban detainees. He was then sent back to Fort Hood, TX, to become the Battalion Operations Officer (S3) of the 3/8 Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division. Following this assignment, he PCS'd to Ft Sam Houston, TX, working for a Combat Army Team Lead. In 1997, he was appointed Chief of Plans and Evaluations for OPM SANG, Saudi Arabia. After 12 months, he PCS'd again to Ft Sam Houston, TX, as Deputy Chief for Special Actions until retirement. From Bryan, to sum up why he served, "To serve one's country is to weave the threads of one's own life into the tapestry of a nation's future, acknowledging that true patriotism lies not just in love for the land, but in the commitment to safeguarding the ideals that define it."

Following his retirement he attained several certifications: Certifications: Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL); Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP); Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA); Cisco Certified Design Associate (CCDA); Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE); Graduate, Management Essentials 2603 management refresher (2023). Graduate Step Up to Conflict 7200 understanding conflict in the workplace (2023) Executive Coaching Participant, Senior Leadership Development (SLD) Explore leadership skills (2023).

He then worked for several companies as a contractor and as a civil service employee for the Government.

2000 – 2004: Test/Systems Engineer Titan Systems, L3 Communications

2005 to 2006: Team Lead/ Information Technology Specialist, GS-2210, Grade: GG13, US Army, Seoul, South Korea; 2000 to 2004: Senior Network/Systems Engineer, BTG, Inc. San Antonio, TX 78226

2006 to 2009: Test Manager, L-3 Communications/ US Air Force 346th Test Squadron, San Antonio, TX

2009 to 2010: Mission Systems Engineer/ Contract Lead, CACI, Seoul, South Korea.

2011 to 2014, Grade: GG14: Deputy Chief, Messaging Solutions Division, United States Intelligence Community (IC), United States Intelligence Community (IC), Ft. Meade, MD

2015 to 2016, GS-2210, Grade: GG14: Deputy Chief of Staff, Enterprise Information Technology Services, United States Intelligence Community (IC), Ft. Meade, MD

TUESDAY SQUAD

2016 to 2017, GS-2210, Grade: GG14: Chief, Workforce Strategies & Programs, United States Intelligence Community (IC), Ft. Meade, MD

2017 to 2019, GS-2210, Grade: GG14: Deputy Chief, Systems Engineer Division, JDA in the Intelligence Community (IC) Joint Base Anacostia–Bolling

2019 to 2021, GS-2210, Grade: GG14: Chief of Staff, A+3, United States Intelligence Community (IC), Ft. Meade, MD

2022 to 2024, GS-2210, Grade: GG14; Chief of Staff, A+3, United States Intelligence Community (IC), Ft. Meade, MD

June 2024 – Relocated back to Universal City, TX to the house I have owned since 1995.



2nd row from the front, 7th man from the left (with glasses).

TUESDAY SQUAD



On November 11, Veterans Day, Friday Squad Member Johnny Sanchez and Tuesday Squad Members Lawrence Cabanilla, Mark Jordan, and Rogelio "Roger" Rodriguez, performed at the San Antonio Spurs game. They had the amazing opportunity to meet former Spurs player, David Robinson!



Lawrence Cabanilla Achieved Lifetime Member status and was presented with his rocker patches and pins! Happy Anniversary, Lawrence!



Former Squad Leader, Al Lopez, was awarded Honor Guard Member of the Year!



Squad Leader Keith Wall presents Jay Baker with a service pin as we recognize him for 19 years of service to the MSD honor Guard! Happy Anniversary, Jay!

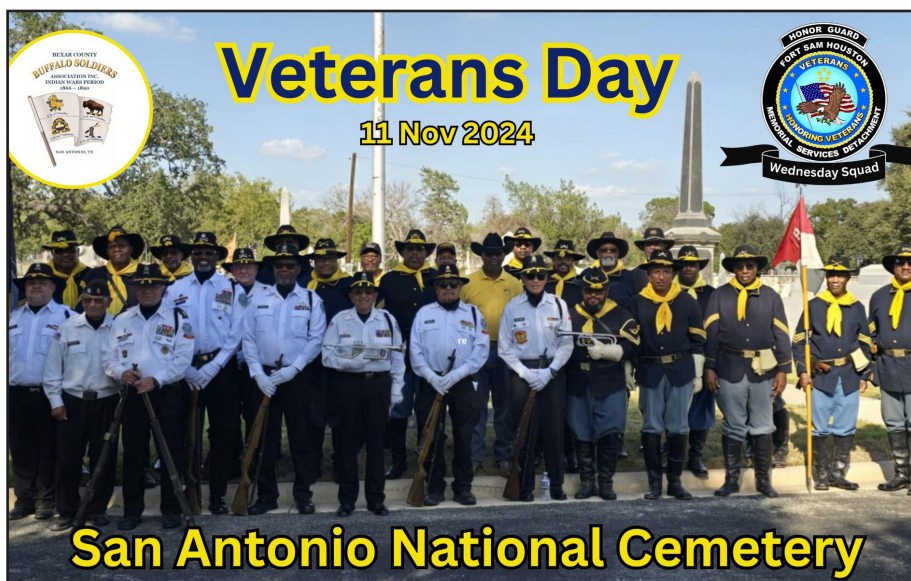
WEDNESDAY SQUAD

During the months of September to December 2024, our volunteer veterans proudly provided military honors to 85 veterans at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, dedicating a total of 1,553 combined volunteer hours. As patriots, we deeply value the opportunity to honor those who selflessly served our nation, ensuring their sacrifices are remembered and respected. It is a privilege to stand alongside our fellow veterans, embodying the spirit of patriotism and gratitude that defines our great nation.



Our squad is deeply committed to honoring our fallen veterans with the respect they deserve. We firmly believe that every veteran should be remembered with dignity and reverence, and we are truly humbled to carry out this important duty. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all veterans for their service and sacrifices—we owe them more than words can express.

11 Nov 2024 - We participated in the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Commemorative Ceremony at the San Antonio National Cemetery. We were very proud to honor our Buffalo Soldiers on Veterans Day.



WEDNESDAY SQUAD

Welcome to the Wednesday Squad!

Please join me in welcoming two outstanding veterans to our team:



Sergeant Major Walter Trotter – A 30-year U.S. Army veteran with multiple deployments and assignments to rapid deployment units throughout his distinguished career. SGM Trotter is passionate about helping fellow veterans with their disability ratings, and his leadership skills and experience make him a fantastic asset to the Wednesday Squad. His vast military experience has already made a positive impact on our daily operations. Walter resides in Schertz.

Sergeant First Class Michael Barnett – A dedicated U.S. Army veteran with 21 years of service, including multiple deployments and assignments to rapid deployment units. Mike is also our newest bus driver and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as a mechanic and leader. He has adjusted very well to our mission and is already making a positive impact. Mike is an active member of VFW Post 7110 in New Braunfels and lives in Seguin.



We are honored to have both Walter and Mike join our squad. Their service, leadership, and dedication make them invaluable additions to our team. Welcome aboard!

WEDNESDAY SQUAD

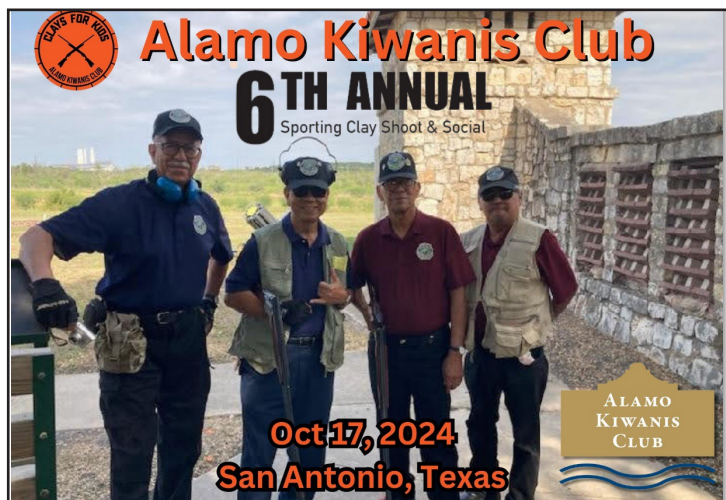
20 Sep 2024 – Team Building Event
NCOA Golf Tournament

20 Sep 2024 - We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to SGM Joe Terry, Executive Director of the NCOA, for inviting the Wednesday Squad to participate in the 64th Annual Golf Tournament at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course. It was an incredible event benefiting the NCOA Scholarship Fund. We're proud to have been a part of such great cause, helping further education opportunities. We had a fantastic time!



17 Oct 2024 – Team Building Shotgun Clay Competition

Thank you to the Alamo Kiwanis Club of San Antonio for inviting the Wednesday Squad to participate in their 6th Annual Skeet Shoot and Social fundraiser. We continue to support team-building events like these, which foster camaraderie within our squad and significantly contribute to the mission of the Memorial Services Detachment and the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.



USMC Vet LCpl Ernest Ybarra, USMC Vet MSG Raul Marroquin, USN Vet CPO Manny Ibera, and USMC Vet Johnny Sanchez (Fri Sqd)

WEDNESDAY SQUAD

19 Oct 2024 – MSD Recruitment Day
BAMC Military Appreciation Day

We had great success at BAMC Military Appreciation Day, gathering info from 16 potential recruits! A special thanks to Johnny Sanchez (Friday Squad), Roberto Vela (Thursday Squad), Jon Brown, Raul Marroquin, and Alex Estrada (Wednesday Squad) for their help today! Great teamwork!



Johnny Sanchez (Fri Sqd), Roberto Vela (Thu Sqd), Jon Brown & Raul Marroquin(Wed Sqd)



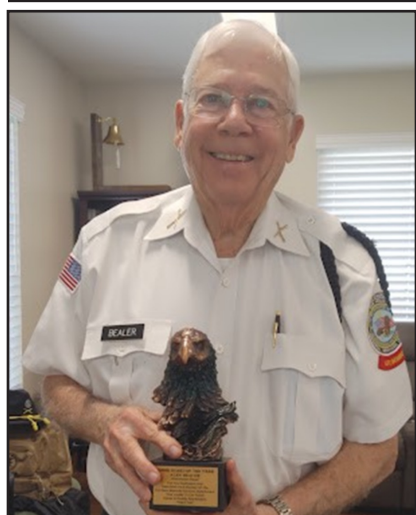
Roberto Vela (Thu Sqd) & Raul Marroquin (Wed Sqd)



(Left) USN Vet PO3 Jon Brown and USMC Vet MSG Raul Marroquin



(Right) USA Veteran CSM Luis Gonzalez with Bexar County Clerk Honorable Lucy Adame-Clark.



Alex has served faithfully Wed Squad MSD for over 20 years!

23 Oct 2024 – Award Ceremony USA Vet Col Alex Bealer

USA VET COL Alex Bealer was awarded the Wednesday Squad Volunteer of the Year for CY2024. His peers chose him for this honor, reflecting their deep respect and appreciation for his contributions. For over 20 years, Alex has been a valuable member of the Wednesday Squad, known for his intelligence and savvy, with many regularly seeking his advice and wisdom.



USN Vet CPO Manny Mendoza and MSD Cdr recognizes Alex as the 2024 Wed Squad Volunteer of the Year

WEDNESDAY SQUAD

23 Oct 2024 - No Veteran Should Die Alone!

The Unaccompanied Veterans Program, established in January 2015, ensures that eligible Veterans without known next-of-kin, or those whose next-of-kin cannot attend, receive standard interment procedures along with military honors at Texas State Veterans Cemeteries. Prior to this program, Veterans often underwent "direct no witness" burials, meaning their remains were transported to the cemetery and interred without any honors or acknowledgment of their military service.

These services are held quarterly at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. On 24 July 2024, our squad provided military honors to remember the lives and sacrifices of seven Veterans.



USMC VET MSG Raul Marroquin and USN VET CP3 Jon Brown folding the US Flag.



USAF VET MSgt Porfirio Montellano



13 Nov – Weapons Safety Training

Safety is paramount in everything we do, whether it's driving our bus or handling weapons. Today, we completed training on the assembly, disassembly, and maintenance of the M1 Garand rifle, including loading and unloading procedures and the importance of preventing negligent discharges. Ground guiding procedures were also reviewed to reinforce our commitment to safe operations.



WEDNESDAY SQUAD

Gregorio Isidro Flores

7 NOVEMBER, 1937 - 29 NOVEMBER, 2022



6 Nov – Team Building

2nd Annual GI Flores Legacy Lunch

2nd Annual GI Flores Legacy Lunch. Today marks another beautiful moment in honoring the legacy of our friend G.I. Flores. Once again, his family treated our squad to a wonderful lunch, and we're so grateful for their generosity. As we enjoyed each bite, we shared photos, stories, and laughter that reminded us of G.I.'s spirit and the joy he brought to us all. Thank you to the Flores family for bringing us together once more to remember an incredible friend.



G.I.'s widow, Margie Flores, along with her daughters, Regina and Rachel, and grandchildren, Aiden and Abby, served each veteran their meal. We are incredibly grateful and thankful to them for sharing this special day with the Wednesday Squad.

USA Vet COL Alex Bealer and GI's Grandson, Aiden. Aiden wears his late grandfather G.I.'s ID tags around his neck every day in remembrance of him.



THURSDAY SQUAD



Commander Manny Mendoza presents Thursday Squad Honor Guard of the Year Award to MSD Honor Guard Richard Canavacholo.



Thursday Squad Leader Mike Giglio and MSD Commander Manny Mendoza present the Lifetime Membership to Robert Vela for 5 years of dedicated service!



Mike Giglio and Frank Keblman attended the Sons of the American Revolution Grave Marking Ceremony

FRIDAY SQUAD

Retired Member Ed Farley Visits

Friday Squad welcomed Ed Farley for a visit in September. Ed retired from MSD in July of 2022, when he relocated to the Air Force Retirement Home in Biloxi, MS. While residing there Ed continued honoring Veterans as a member of the local VFW Honor Guard. This past summer Ed returned to Texas, moving to San Angelo when his daughter received a promotion and was reassigned.

Ed stopped in for a visit while he was in San Antonio for his orientation briefing for an Honor Flight to Washington, DC. Apparently, returning to Texas has been a good thing as Ed mentioned his health has improved. As we all know, Texas is the place to be.



Ed Farley returns to visit the squad

(Right)-Friday Squad celebrating October birthdays, Robert Reyes, Dan Moreno, Freddie Wilson, Ron Larson and Mike Hoffman



Friday Squad Welcomes Two New Life Members

Robert Reyes was awarded his Life Member rocker on 13 September. Robert has been a faithful participant while holding down a full-time job. In addition, Robert has assisted with both the Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies here at the cemetery and performed with the MSD Color Guard.

Dan Moreno was awarded his life member rocker on 8 November. Dan has battled through severe back problems to participate with Friday Squad. His perseverance is amazing. He is also active in the local Airborne Association Chapter, along with several other Veteran's organizations in the San Antonio area.



Robert Reyes being presented his Life Member Rocker



Dan Moreno receiving his Life Member rocker from Squad Leader Randy Brown

FRIDAY SQUAD

CMOHS Ceremony

In October the Congressional Medal of Honor Society (CMOHS) held their annual meeting in San Antonio. As part of their meeting, they traveled to the Alamo for a memorial service for their departed members. As the members arrived they passed through a reception line consisting of the caisson mounted riders from Fort Sam Houston and MSD Friday Squad. At the conclusion of the memorial service the members and their families gathered in the Alamo Plaza where a benediction was offered and Friday Squad fired three volleys and sounded taps. It was amazing to see so many of the military heroes we have only heard about gathered in one place and we were very honored to participate.



FRIDAY SQUAD

Jack Branson Awarded Friday Squad Honor Guard Member of the Year

Jack Branson was selected by his fellow squad members as Friday Squad Honor Guard Member of the Year for 2024. In addition to being a rifleman on Friday Squad, Jack wears many hats in MSD, holding the positions of VCO and assistant Ordinance Officer. Jack played a vital role in our obtaining the new bus. Jack was in constant communication with the dealership monitoring the status of the bus throughout the build process. Not only did he work toward getting the new bus, he has worked diligently to keep the A/C on the current bus functioning for our comfort during the blistering summer heat.

Congratulations Jack for being selected for this award and thanks for your continued hard work and devotion to the MSD mission.



Turkey Time

Friday Squad members Ed Dela Cruz, Johnny Sanchez, Luis Reyes, Martin Urrutia, Robert Reyes and Max presented the colors for the Raul Jimenez Thanksgiving Dinner. The Jimenez Thanksgiving Dinner has been a San Antonio tradition since 1979. Thanks to our Friday Squad members for taking time out of their Thanksgiving Day to represent MSD.



(Above Left)-Color Guard presenting Colors

(Above)- MSD Color Guard



(Left)-MSD Color Guard with Mayor Nirenberg

(Right)- Max; our goodwill ambassador



FRIDAY SQUAD

Christmas at the Towers

On Friday the 13th of December, Friday Squad was invited our third annual Christmas at the Towers. It has become a tradition for Friday Squad to share a Christmas meal and visit with the residents of the Towers. Every year, old friendships are renewed and new friendships are formed. It's a joy to return and catch up on the happenings of the last year. Thanks to the staff of the Towers for going out of their way to provide us with a great meal and a lovely cake to mark the occasion.



This year was very special as our mentor Tom Earnest and his wife Joyce were able to join us. This marks the first time Tom has been able to participate with the squad since his stroke. Our visit with Tom and Joyce was truly a Christmas blessing and we are looking forward to having Tom rejoin the squad.



We are extremely grateful to Billie Reilly and his lovely wife Suzie for going above and beyond every year to make this a memorable event for all.



Johnny Sanchez & Martine Urrutia with Max and Ike



Ron Witherspoon and Randy Brown



L-R Tina Marie Sanchez, Betsy Condra, Maverick and Johnny Sanchez



Martine Urrutia, Dale Taylor & Johnny Sanchez with Residents JoAnn R. & Marguerite C.

Chaplain's Corner

Greetings to all MSD Members, Families and Friends;

Well another year is coming to an end. We're another year older and maybe even wiser. It has been a year of many Services for our departed Comrades.

At MSD this year we have lost five of our Brothers, all members who delivered many services throughout the years.

They are Valentin Martinez, Arthur Cser, Kevin Scott, George Ybarra and Richard Martinez. Rest in Peace, Fellow Warriors, Until we meet again.

This has been an amazing year for MSD, we are in our new building, seems like we'll be in our new bus soon. We also received a donation that has allowed us to purchase new stocks for our M1 rifles.

We have also recruited several new members. Welcome aboard to MSD, I'm sure you will enjoy being with us in rendering final services to our departed Veterans.

Myself and John Francis collect clothing and shoes for the Christian Assistance Ministries. John and my Wife Rosy are just two of the Volunteers at this mission. Coats and blue jeans are in high demand, also Children's clothing.

Many homeless Veterans also receive help there.

I would like to close this Newsletter with a Prayer that I say every week after we read the names of those receiving services that day.

"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.

Thank You all and May God look after you and your Families.

I remain your Servant in the name of Our Lord.

Francis Michael Giglio

Memorial Services Detachment Chaplain



MSD Happenings



American Legion Auxiliary Alamo Unit #2 led by Rosie Perez Mendez visited MSD today and brought with them a Generous Donation of \$300.00. The



(L-R) Chris Powers, (Delia Gonzalez and Rita Gamez are members of American Legion Auxiliary Alamo Unit #2) and Ernie Gamez visited MSD.



(L-R) Rita Gamez, Manny Mendoza, Rosie Perez Mendez. Manny Mendoza accepts a most Generous Donation from American Legion Auxiliary Unit #2 President Rosie Perez Mendez.



Commander Manny Mendoza receives a most Generous donation from Commander Kathy Kaberides DAV San Antonio Alamo Chapter 5.



Randy Brown and Manny Mendoza giving a thumbs up for MSD's new bus.



Randy Brown is standing by MSD's brand new bus.

MSD Happenings



Veterans Of Foreign Wars Post 837 (VFW 837) Highland Hills Southeast presented a very generous donation to Commander Mendoza. This organization has been a regular supporter of MSD!



Commander Manny Mendoza received a Certificate of Appreciation from President of The Sons of The American Revolution (SAR) Chapter #4 San Antonio Texas.



Commander Manny Mendoza receives a very Generous Donation for MSD from former President Leon Portillo of San Antonio Northside Lions Club



(L-R) Randy Brown, Manny Mendoza, Steven McCray and Jack Branson received the SAR Good Citizenship Medals from President Of The Sons of the American Revolution



SGM(R) Rick Davila and Family donated a Bench to the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment (MSD) to be used by MSD Members outside the MSD building.



MSD Happenings



Commander Manny Mendoza participates in ordering and placing Wreaths at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery



On Christmas Eve, Jon Brown arrived at 6 AM and heard the disconcerting sound of water bubbling. After walking in the dark towards the Carillon, he came upon a steady flow of water. He and Jesse broke out a shovel team. They secured the hazard and had it dried up by 1600 so Santa wouldn't get stuck!



No matter the weather, hot or cold, rainy or drought, and even snow or ice-nothing can stop the dedicated MSD volunteers from showing up and performing military honors!