



# Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment

## Medal of Honor Recipients at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery

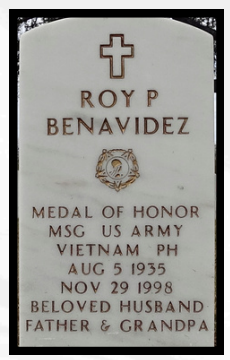
Did you know-FSHNC is the final resting place for several Medal of Honor Recipients? The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. One such individual was Roy P. Benavidez. Benavidez served with the Detachment B-56, 5th Special Forces Group, Airborne, 1st Special Forces during the Vietnam War. On May 2, 1968, Master Sergeant Benavidez volunteered to assist in the fourth effort to save a twelve-man reconnaissance team stranded west of Loc Ninh. Benavidez jumped from a hovering helicopter and despite his own wounds, he recovered the wounded soldiers and classified documents. Benavides received the Medal of Honor on February 24, 1981. He died November 29, 1998. Learn more at: <https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/ROYPBENAVIDEZ/7897FE7>

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# COMMANDER'S CORNER

In October after 7, years, I will be relinquishing my position as the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment (MSD) Commander. I can't help but think of two accomplishments worth reliving, and there has been many, but one of the accomplishments was attained through sheer Devotion and Dedication of each and every one of the (MSD) Honor Guards rendering military honors to the Forty Five Thousandth Veteran buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery (and I will mention it was on a Monday in 19 degree temperature.)

The second accomplishment pictured, was accomplished by sheer generosity of each and every one that donates and helps fundraise funds for the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment (MSD) to raise funds to purchase this bus and maintain the MSD Operational Funds needed to meet MSD's Mission.



MSD is already planning the phase replacement of a new bus, this bus has been a Godsend considering we are in the latter part of summer. The phase replacement is for a 7 year period with the hopes to extend it to a decade or ten years. I hope to see it materialize.

In my view, neither of these accomplishments would have been realized without so many, making a ONE TEAM MSD. Military City USA in San Antonio Texas IS NOT a hollow sound. It is real.

I hope you will support the new MSD Commander just like you supported me. Thank you everyone for 7 wonderful years of Commandership.

Manny Mendoza  
MSD Commander  
210-722-2582

# MONDAY SQUAD

Bob Ramirez



Top picture, 1969, getting ready to fly out on a search and destroy mission, doorgunner, Bob Ramirez, 1st Aviation Brigade, Vietnam, "Sidewinders" take no prisoners. 🇺🇸  
Bottom photo, maintenance on the M79 thumper, grenade launcher, with back up M16, ready to go, had bu-ku ammo 🇺🇸



Assistant Monday Squad Leader Robert Ramirez is presented a VA Volunteer Pin for 2,500 volunteer hours.



Monday Squad Member (Bus Driver) Ronald Bowren is Presented his MSD 10 Year Pin. Thank you Ron for 10 years as a MSD Monday Squad member.



Monday Squad Member Ernesto (Ernie) Gamez is Presented his MSD 10 year Pin. Thank you Ernie for 10 years as a MSD Monday Squad Member.



# TUESDAY SQUAD

"There's a first time for everything!"



(Photo Courtesy of Jackie Jones)  
Only at a Tuesday Squad funeral service! It is typical to have a bugler, rifle squad, and sometimes bagpipes at the cemetery. But a live organist? On this day, the organists played a crucial role in setting the tone and atmosphere of the service. He played music as the congregation gathered, the coffin was processed, and as the service concluded. The primary focus at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery is honoring veterans with traditional military funeral rites and maintaining a solemn atmosphere of remembrance. In this case, he created a meaningful and comforting atmosphere for those mourning.



(Photo courtesy of Jackie Jones)

Tuesday Squad, as part of the Memorial Services Detachment, provides final military honors to eligible veterans and service retirees at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Our members comprise an all-volunteer group of primarily U.S. military veterans who provide full military honors for eligible veterans and service retirees at their funerals. Currently, we have ten U.S. Air Force, six U.S. Army, and three U.S. Navy/Marine Corps volunteers. Notably, two members of the squad served in two different military branches.

So, why did I join Tuesday Squad? One of the key attractions of our squad is the sense of purpose and camaraderie it provides. We form and share deep bonds with our fellow service members, creating a strong sense of community and shared experience.

We are a team of nineteen members and work together as a cohesive unit. Tuesday squad members share strong communication, trust in each other, shared goals, and a positive, collaborative environment, enabling us to perform our duties with honor and respect.

# TUESDAY SQUAD



Name: Andres (Andy) Mendez  
Place of Birth: San Antonio, Texas  
Born: 07/25/1955

## Service Record

USAF Enlisted: May 16, 1974 Separated: Sep May 30, 1981

USAFR Enlisted: Dec 06, 1986 Separated: Aug 31, 1989

AFSC 90250 Medical Services Spec

And

90750 Environmental Health/Bioenvironmental Engineering  
Specialist

(USAF Disaster Response Force):

## Active Duty Assignments:

1974-1975 Taipei Air Station and CCK AB, Taiwan, Pacific Air Force  
(PACAF)

1975-1978 Maxwell AFB, Alabama, Air University (AU)

1978-1981 Aviano AB, Italy, US Air Force Europe, (USAFE)

## Air Force Reserves Assignments

1986-1989 Bergstrom AFB, Texas, US Air Force Reserves, (USAFR)

Final Rank E-5/SSgt

## Civilian Positions

1990-1999 State of Texas

Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC)

Engineering Tech

Engineering Spec

Emissions Evaluator

2000-2007

## Independent Contractor Activities

KOCH Refinery Gasoline Pipeline Quality Control Spec

Hazardous Materials Disposal Services

Roush Performance

New Vehicle Test Driver

Ceramic Tile & Masonry Apprentice

Real Estate Sales Support Services

Independent Contractor

1982-1984

1986-1989



# TUESDAY SQUAD

## Richard Booher, Tuesday Squad

### Biography

Born in Michigan in 1944: Grew up in the small village of Osseo, Michigan. Was the youngest of five children. His father died when he was 10, and the village helped his mom raise him.

Early life and education: Attended school grades 1-6 in Osseo. Bused to the county Junior High and High School in Hillsdale, only 7 miles away. Did well in school and was active in sports, lettering in Varsity Baseball, Track, and Football. Made good friends, served as co-captain of the football team, and was president of the varsity club. After graduating in 1963, he attended Jackson Junior College, graduated, and was drafted into the Army in 1966.

Military training and Vietnam service: After basic training, he became an 81 MM Mortar crewman and was commissioned as a 2LT. Went to Jump school and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. Served in Vietnam in 1968 as the Engineer Maintenance Platoon leader and held various command roles of the 156 HEM Co.

Post-Vietnam military career: Volunteered to stay in the Army, promoted to Captain. Served as the 172nd Brigade Engineer and later as the Commander of the 562 Engineer Company in Alaska. Went to the Engineer Officer Advanced Course at Ft Belvoir, Virginia.

Family and education: Married Linda from Montana, had their first son while earning a Civil Engineering degree at Michigan Technological University, and later had two daughters and another son. Two daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, and six grandchildren have become a part of the family.

Overseas and stateside assignments: Served as a Modernization Officer of United States Facilities in Germany, was stationed at Ft Bragg, NC, as the 18th Airborne Corps Staff Engineer, 548th CBT HVY Engineer BN XO, and 182nd Airborne Brigade S-3.

Research and development roles: as an Operational Test Officer at Fort Knox, promoted to Major. Assigned to Army Materiel Command at Norton Air Force Base, California, promoted to LTC and assigned to the American, British, Australian, Canadian Research and Development Board, in London, England, with an office in the Ministry of Defense (MOD) Whitehall Building.

Final military assignment and retirement: Served as Director of Engineering and Housing at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In lieu of accepting another duty station assignment, he opted for retirement. Retired from the Army at Fort Sam Houston in 1993.

Post-military career in construction: Joined ALPHA Building Corporation, served as Project Manager, Operations Officer, Executive Vice President, and Chairman of the Board. Served the Texas Society of Professional Engineers as the Construction Representative, and on the Texas A&M Construction Industry Advisory Council, R&D Committee.

Retirement and current activities: Retired from Alpha in 2016, now enjoy family time, golf, fitness, volunteering at a food bank, and recently joined MSD.



# TUESDAY SQUAD



Tuesday Squad member, Mike De La Rosa took center stage as the “Unaccompanied veterans honored at Fort Sam Houston ceremony” on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. Reports from all attending were the “Unaccompanied veterans honored at Fort Sam Houston ceremony” was excellent.

SAN ANTONIO – NEWS4SA covered the event. See the link below for more information.

<https://news4sanantonio.com/news/local/unaccompanied-veterans-honored-at-fort-sam-houston-ceremony-remembrance-service-army-military-us-marines-navy-air-force#>

Unaccompanied veterans were honored at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery today in a ceremony dedicated to preserving their memory and thanking them for their service to the country. Despite having no family members present, dozens of attendees declared themselves as family to the eight veterans honored, ensuring they were not alone.

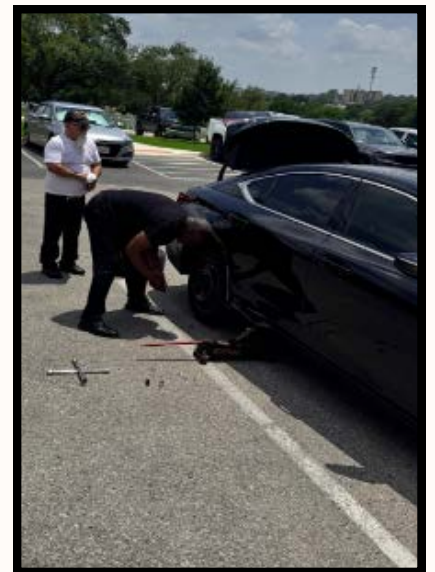
Mike De La Rosa, a Vietnam veteran, emphasized the importance of the event. "It's like a brotherhood in military service," he said. "You always take care of the man next to you or the man to the right or left of you, and these people don't have anybody, so we come out here to give a hearty farewell."

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## "Not All Heroes Wear Capes: Veteran's Service Extends to Roadside Assistance"

Tuesday Squad Member (Mike De La Rosa) (white shirt and ball cap) provides guidance, assistance, and oversight to a motorist whose car had a flat tire in the MSD parking area.

During a break between services, an individual pulled into the MSD parking area and asked for help with his car. MSD member Mike De La Rosa, a backyard mechanic with years of experience, jumped up to evaluate what was actually needed. De La Rosa, utilizing his years of military experience, analyzed the problem, identified the probable cause, developed a plan of action, and implemented the solution. Using the "crawl, walk, run" methodology, he pulled the full-size carjack and his tire-iron out of the back of his truck, and helped the motorist through the proper steps to change a car tire safely, with full size equipment. After about 60 minutes, the motorist had his car repaired and operational again. After a friendly handshake and a “Thank you”, the gentleman departed on his way home safely.



# TUESDAY SQUAD

Memorial Service in honor of HN John E. Kilmer, Medal of Honor Remembrance Ceremony, 16 Aug 2025, San Jose Burial Park, San Antonio, Texas.

Retired Chief Master Sergeant Roger Rodriguez attended the remembrance ceremony representing Tuesday Squad for the Memorial Services Detachment (MSD) for Hospital Man (HN) John Edward “Jackie” Kilmer, a Korean War Veteran.

On 12-13 August 1952, HN Kilmer took part in the attack on “Bunker Hill” in Korea. During battle, HN Kilmer repeatedly braved enemy fire to reach wounded Marines and render aid, carrying many to safety. He defied warnings of danger and started crawling towards a seriously wounded Marine who was lying in the open field.

Mortar fragments struck HN Kilmer, but he continued crawling until he reached the wounded man. As the attack intensified, HN Kilmer unhesitatingly shielded his patient with his own body. HN Kilmer was mortally wounded by flying shrapnel but saved the Marine’s life. For his exceptional fortitude, determined efforts, and unyielding devotion to duty, HN Kilmer was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, which was presented to his mother by Secretary of the Navy Robert B. Anderson on 18 June 1953.



Way to go, Tuesday Squad! “The power of visibility can never be underestimated.” - Margaret Cho

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## Tuesday Squad Bugler Performs at Memorial

On Sunday, 10 August in Comfort, Texas, MSD Bugler Jay Baker performed the National Anthem and Taps at the Treue der Union (Loyalty to the Union) Remembrance Ceremony. This annual event is sponsored by the Comfort Heritage Foundation to honor the Texas men, mostly German immigrants, who refused to serve in the Confederate Army, and were fleeing Comfort to join the Union forces in New Orleans. Most of them were killed in The Nueces Massacre on 10 July 1862; others were later hanged near the Rio Grande River by the Confederate forces chasing them. This annual ceremony is held at the Treue der Union Monument erected in 1866, to honor their memory. The monument contains the remains of the 36 immigrants recovered from the Nueces Massacre. Also, in attendance and participating in the ceremony, was Thursday Squad leader, Frank Kebelman.



(Pictured on the left) at the Treue der Union Monument Col Jay Baker – Bugler and Brenda Seidensticker - Ceremony Coordinator



(Right) Col Jay Baker – Tuesday Squad Bugler

# WEDNESDAY SQUAD

Greetings from Wednesday Squad, from May through August 2025, our volunteer veterans at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery proudly rendered military honors for 85 fellow veterans, dedicating a total of 1,690 volunteer hours. Guided by our motto, “Veterans Honoring Veterans,” we are humbled to continue remembering and honoring those who selflessly served our nation. It remains both a privilege and a duty to stand alongside our fellow veterans, carrying forward the spirit of service, respect, and gratitude that defines our nation.

Our squad remains dedicated to the mission of honoring our fallen heroes. Every ceremony we perform is more than a service, it is a tribute to their sacrifice and to the legacy they leave behind.

We are profoundly grateful to all who have worn the uniform and stood ready in defense of our nation. Your courage, sacrifice, and devotion continue to inspire us each day, and it is our privilege to stand in your honor.

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9 July 2025 –Honoring Service and Commitment. We recognized members of the Wednesday Squad for their volunteer service with the Memorial Services Detachment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Thank you for making sure our veterans receive the honors they deserve. Your dedication means a lot.



USMC Vet Cpl Manuel Valdez receives the VA PIN for 2,500 Volunteer Hours!



USA Vet 1SG Mike Segovia receives a VA Glass Plaque for 4,000 Volunteer Hours!



USA Vet SFC Mike Barnett receives the VA PIN for 100 Volunteer Hours!



USA Vet SGM Walter Trotter receives the VA PIN for 100 Volunteer Hours!

# WEDNESDAY SQUAD

## Live Oak Armed Forces Parade!

May 17 - The Wednesday Squad had the honor of participating in the Live Oak Armed Forces Parade!

We proudly represented the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery and our amazing squad. It was a great day to show our patriotism, connect with the community, and honor those who served.



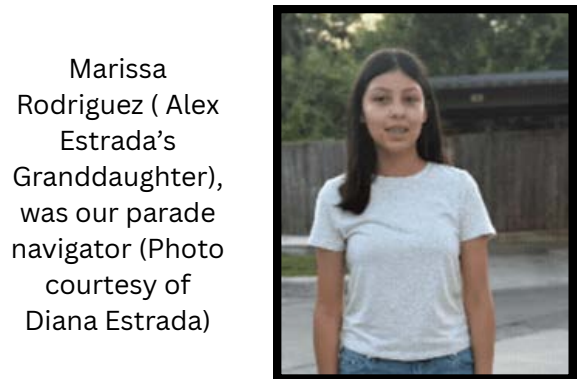
L-R Army Vet MSG Alex Estrada, Amy Vet CSM Luis Gonzalez, and USN Vet CPO Manny Ibera. In the background is FSH Rep and USN Vet PO3 Jennifer McGregor and her children (Photo Courtesy of Al Ramirez)



May 17 - Live Oak Armed Forces Parade!



L-R Diana Estrada (Alex Estrada's Spouse), USN Vet CPO Manny Ibera, FSH Rep USN Vet PO3 Jennifer McGregor and her children (Sarah & Autumn) and PIC Rep USA Vet COL Lola Olsmith (Photo courtesy of Luis Gonzalez)



Marissa Rodriguez ( Alex Estrada's Granddaughter), was our parade navigator (Photo courtesy of Diana Estrada)



FSH Rep USN Vet P03 Jennifer McGregor and her children, Sarah 11 and Autumn 16.



L-R Nat Rodriguez (Parade Driver and Alex Estrada's Son), USA Vet CSM Luis Gonzalez, USA Vet MSG Alex Estrada, FSH Rep USN Vet PO3 Jennifer McGregor, USN Vet PO3 Jon Brown, USA Vet COL Lola Olsmith, USAF Vet SSgt Richard Puente, USN CPO Manny Ibera, and Jennifer's Daughter

# WEDNESDAY SQUAD



USN Vet CPO Manny Ibera receives the VA Lapel Pin for 1,000 Volunteer Hours!



USMC Vet MSG Raul Marroquin receives a VA Glass Plaque for 4,000 Volunteer Hours!



USN Vet PO3 Jon Brown receives a VA Glass Plaque for 4,000 Volunteer Hours and a VA Lapel Pin for 5,000 hours



(above) USN Vet PO3 Gene Carter receives a VA Glass Plaque for 4,000 Volunteer Hours



USA Vet MSG Alex Estrada is presented with the Commander's Award for Public Service

USAF Vet SSgt Richard Puente is presented with the Commander's Award for Public Service and a VA Lapel Pin for 1,750 volunteer hours



When you are 5'3" and your battle buddy is 6'0", you improvise! Here's Richard standing tall (with a little help) next to USAF Vet SMSgt John Francis—two Wednesday Squad teammates who've built an incredible friendship through service, laughter, and a whole lot of military honors. Richard presented John the Public Award for Public Service, and there is USA Vet CSM Luis Gonzalez in the flag shirt, enjoying the height comparison and the brotherhood.

## Squad Social Event Aspen Creek Grill

28 June 2025 – Honoring Service and Commitment. We had the honor of recognizing several outstanding members of the Wednesday Squad for their dedicated volunteer service with the Memorial Services Detachment (MSD) and the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, helping ensure our veterans receive the honors they deserve. VA Volunteer Service Awards and the JBSA Commander's Award for Public Service Certificate, were presented in appreciation of their unwavering commitment to honoring our nation's heroes.

A big thank-you to Aspen Creek Grill for hosting this special gathering and helping make it a meaningful event. To our honorees, thank you for your continued service. Your dedication makes a lasting difference.

# WEDNESDAY SQUAD

## Unaccompanied Veterans Service

16 July 2025 - Thank You for Honoring Our Heroes. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended or supported the Unaccompanied Veteran Services at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Your presence and respect ensured these veterans received the honors they rightfully deserve.



Special thanks to:

- The San Antonio Patriot Guard Riders
- Bexar County Military and Veteran Services
- JBSA Fort Sam Houston and the 502nd Force Support Group
- The dedicated Veterans of the Wednesday Squad, Memorial Services Detachment



This incredible group of volunteers of the Wednesday Squad are more than just a squad — we are family. Week after week, these veterans come together at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery to render respectful and honorable military honors for our fallen comrades.

The ceremony was a moving tribute, made even more meaningful by the support of our community. Your commitment reminds us that no veteran is ever truly alone. Thank you for standing with us.

What began as a shared mission has grown into a brotherhood bound by service, sacrifice, and friendship. Whether it's sharing a meal, telling stories, or supporting one another, we stand united — carrying forward the promise that no veteran will ever be forgotten.

“We are family. We are their honor guard. We are their final salute”



# THURSDAY SQUAD

## In Memoriam

Sergeant First Class Debra K. Eaton, United States Army, Retired SFC Debra Eaton, a proud member of Thursday Squad, Memorial Services Detachment, Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, Texas, died from injuries related to a fall at her home on 14 August 2025.

Debra was a veteran of the United States Navy, having briefly served as a Sailor in 1977. She then entered the United States Army Reserve and later the active Army from which she retired as a Sergeant First Class. She compiled a sterling record during her Army career and was the recipient of three Meritorious Service Medals, five Army Commendation Medals, two Joint Service Achievement Medals and seven awards of the Army Achievement Medal along with numerous unit, service and campaign decorations, and was a veteran of the wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan.



**DEBRA EATON**

Debra joined MSD in 2021 and served in the U.S. Army for 28 years.

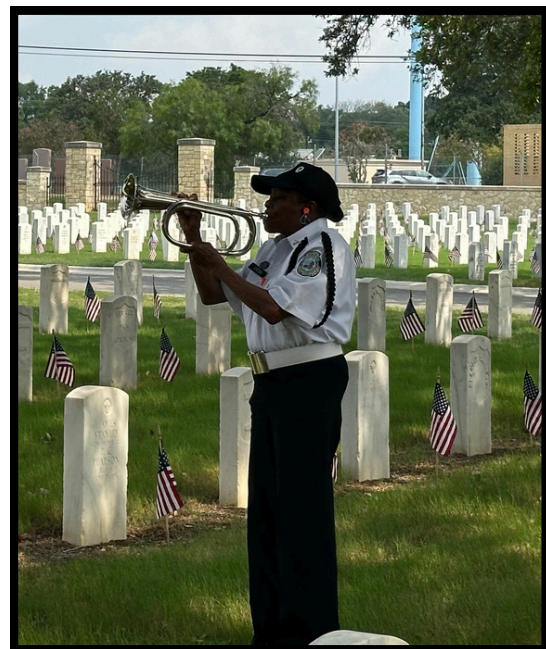


Debra was born in Chicago, Illinois, but chose San Antonio as her home after her retirement from the Army. A lifelong dedicated Christian, Debra was an active member of Redeeming Grace Baptist Church, San Antonio. Her Army career included service as a Drill Instructor in addition to her primary military duties with the U.S. Army Medical Command. A true servant-leader, Debra was an active civic volunteer and had most recently served for eight years as a Trustee on the Judson Independent School District Board. She was also a licensed real estate agent, earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees, and was an advocate of higher education for all Americans. She was a member of several civic organizations including Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and the Order of the Eastern Star. SFC Eaton joined MSD in 2021 and had served as a rifleman, flag bearer, bugler, firing party commander and was the Assistant Squad Leader in 2024. She also offered prayers, helped carry caskets, folded and presented the American flag on several occasions, and was always ready to do whatever was needed to offer comfort and help to grieving family members. Only a few months short of five years of service with MSD, Commander Mendoza has decided to award her MSD Life Membership in recognition for her inspirational service to Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery.

# THURSDAY SQUAD

SFC Eaton had a large family and leaves behind a daughter, son-in-law, three siblings, several grandchildren and eight great-grand-children. Debra was a unique, loving, very special American hero. Her passing is being sorely felt by her family, friends, colleagues and her fellow MSD members. Debra's interment will begin with a church service at Redeeming Grace Church, 4500 Foster Road, at 12:00 pm on Friday 5 September with a Patriot Raiders escorted procession following to Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. Her committal service there will begin at 1:45 pm, followed by a memorial gathering at VFW Post 8541, 1700 Austin Highway. All MSD members past and present are invited to attend the church service, the committal service and the memorial gathering.

Prepared by: LtCol. Frank Kebelman, USMC retired, Thursday Squad Leader MSD



# FRIDAY SQUAD

## The Parsons Achieve Life Status

On 30 May, Deb and Wayne Parsons were awarded their life membership tabs. They both do an amazing job for Friday Squad and Deb has also taken on the role of Publicity Officer as well as assisting in creating a new web page for MSD. Wayne has taken on the role of bus driver. We are extremely proud to have them as members of Friday Squad.



## Towers Woodworking Shop Donates Storage Box for New Bus

With the acquisition of the new bus, it quickly became obvious that there wasn't any storage available for the items we need to carry with us on a daily basis, such as our first aid kit and tool kit. Friday Squad member Billie Reilly who resides at the Towers, and Jack Branson, VCO touched base with the Towers woodworking shop craftsmen who came to our aid. After several meetings to discuss specifications, Mr. Joe Kittle and his fellow woodworkers came up with a practical solution to build a wooden box that fit into the small area between the seats and the doorway of the bus.

Thanks to Mr. Kittle's and retired Friday Squad member David Lake's skill and hard work the completed storage box was presented to MSD on 19 August. Commander Mendoza and VCO Jack Branson accepted the box on behalf of MSD.



Joe Kittle making the bus box in the Towers Workshop.



Joe Kittle talking with Friday Squad.



Commander Mendoza presenting Joe Kittle with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Installing the box in the MSD bus.

# FRIDAY SQUAD

## Friday Squad Bids Life Member Robert Reyes Farewell

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Robert Reyes. He joined MSD on 18 Sept 2019 and retired effective 23 May 2025. During his time with MSD he accumulated 1472 volunteer hours as he provided final honors to 1407 Veterans. Robert's dedication to the MSD mission is remarkable considering that he was employed full time and was a leader for the Knights of Columbus while volunteering with MSD.



Robert was born in El Paso but spent his youth in Pomona, CA. After high school he enlisted in the Air Force in February 1979. After completing training as an administrative specialist, he was assigned to Randolph AFB where he was also assigned additional duty as a security police augmentee. While at Randolph he volunteered as a member of the base honor guard performing funerals at both FSHNC and throughout the southern region of Texas.

In 1982 Robert cross-trained into the Non-Destructive inspection (NDI) career field with assignments at Nellis AFB, NV, Keflavik Iceland, K.I. Sawyer AFB, MI, Osan AB, Korea, Edwards AFB, mCA, Kelly AFB, TX and finally back at Edwards AFB, CA, where he retired after 22 years of active duty in April 2001. After the U.S. terrorist attacks on 9-11 he volunteered to return as an active reservist under the IMA program, serving an additional 11 years before retiring again in October 2012.



After retiring from the Air Force in 2001 he went to work for Disneyland Anaheim as an NDI quality control inspector. He was employed by Disneyland for 12 years, retiring in July 2013. Robert relocated to San Antonio in 2013 to accept employment as a civil service NDI inspector at Randolph. He resigned after 12 years to relocate to El Paso as his post retirement home. We wish him happiness and success in his future endeavors.



# FRIDAY SQUAD

## Missing In America Program Ceremony 2025

On May 2nd, Friday Squad participated in the honors detail to provide military honors and closure for seven Veterans whose remains had been unclaimed. These Veterans were from all parts of the state of Texas.

Joyce Earnest, wife of Friday Squad member Tom Earnest is the Texas Coordinator for MIAP. The MIAP ceremonies are conducted at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery because there is a known military presence and MSD is always present to provide the volleys of rifle fire and sound TAPS. The JROTC unit from Veterans Memorial High School escorted the remains and the Patriot Guard Riders participated with the flag line.



The Patriot Guard escorted the remains (above). (Below) The Navy Honor Guard presented the flag.



(Above) MIAP attendees  
(Right) Friday Squad with the Navy flag folders.



(Top) Joint Service Honor Guard  
(Above) Veterans Memorial HS JROTC placed the remains.



Friday Squad fired the 3 volleys (above) and presented salutes during the playing of TAPS (left).

# FRIDAY SQUAD

## 2025 Memorial Day Observance

Once again, Friday Squad had the distinct honor of joining the residents of the Towers for their Memorial Day observance. For the second year, Friday Squad presented the service flags, performed the folding of the American Flag, presented and detailed the Missing Man table and concluded the ceremony with the playing of TAPS. After the ceremony Friday Squad members shared lunch with the residents with the opportunity to renew old friendships and make new friends.



(Above) MSD members bowing their heads in prayer. (Below) Presentation of the Service Flags



Residents reciting the Pledge of allegiance



The ceremony has a very special meaning to the Towers residents as many of them are Veterans or spouses of departed Veterans. We are both honored and proud to be asked to share this special time. Many thanks to squad member Billie Reilly and his wife Suzie for being such gracious hosts.



(Above/below center) Randy Brown and Mike Hoffman folded the flag for presentation while Billy O'Reilly (bottom left) narrated the ceremony. (Bottom right) Martin Urrutia and Max presented the Missing Man/POW/MIA table.





## *CHAPLAIN'S CORNER*

Greetings to all MSD Members, Family's and Friends;

I hope all is well with you and your families. Time moves along and many joys and pains come with it. There have been many new GrandChildren, Great GrandChildren. It seems for me as I grow older, it's a pleasure to see young people, doing what young people do. Nary a worry to bother them.

I am a member of Thursday Squad, and as you may know, we have lost one of our own. Debra Eaton passed away a short while ago. She was a member for just about Five years. Debra was a member of several organizations, She was mainly involved with Children Groups.

Debra often would bring clothing for the unfortunate members of the community, which would be donated to Christian Assistance Ministries. If you would like clothing donations, you can bring your donations to myself on Thursday Squad or to John Francis on Wednesday Squad.

Debra's services will be on Friday, Sep 5 at Shelter 4 at 1:45.

More info to come as it becomes available.

I remain your faithful servant,  
Francis Michael Giglio  
Memorial Services Detachment Chaplain



Frank Kebelman (left) and Mike Giglio (right) at a naturalization ceremony, as part of The Sons of The American Revolution

# MSD HAPPENINGS



Members of MSD participated in the Magnolia Hospice Company Appreciation Ceremony at Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church on August 2, 2025. Carlos Munoz Magnolia Hospice Volunteer, Manny Mendoza MSD MSD Commander, and Richard Chavarria MSD Thursday Squad Member Bugler Volunteer.



The Sons of the American Revolution provided the Honor Guard for a recent naturalization ceremony, swearing in 400 people as American Citizens. Mike Giglio on the left, and Frank Kebelman on the right.



South Texas Veterans Healthcare System Chief Jason V. Gray presented Commander Manny Mendoza with a Trophy in Recognition of his 10,000 Volunteer Hours as a member of the Fort Sam Houston Memorial Services Detachment (MSD) at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

# JIM OGILVIE



Friday Squad is sad to announce the passing of long time member Jim Ogilvie.

James Alexander Ogilvie, beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and proud Marine, passed away peacefully on Friday, June 30, 2025, at the age of 81. Born on Saturday, January 8, 1944, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, James lived a life defined by honor, service, and deep love for his family and country.

James served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps, embodying the values of courage, commitment, and integrity. Even after retiring from active duty, his dedication to his fellow service members continued through his volunteer work with the Fort Sam Houston Honor Guard, where he honored countless veterans with dignity and respect.

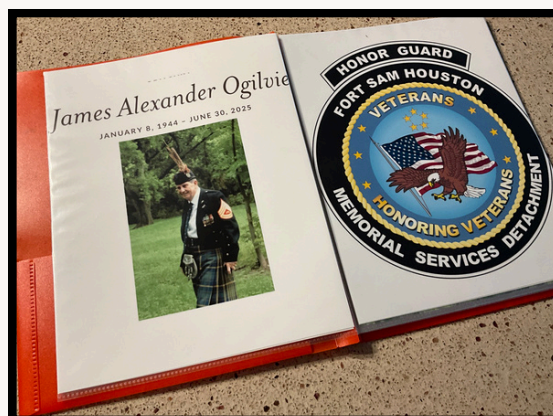
James is survived by the love of his life, Janet Elizabeth Seider. He was a devoted father to his daughters, Renee and her fiancé Ken, and Kerry, and to his sons, John, Shane and his wife Julie, and Jay. He was a proud grandfather to Damian, Dominick, Derrick, Drake, Emily, Sadie, Zoey, Darlyne, Nyvaeh, Londyn, Thomas, Ashley, and Ryan. His legacy continues through his great-grandchildren: Michael, Journey, Asher, and Prince. James will be remembered for his unwavering patriotism, his quiet strength, and the deep love he shared with all who knew him. He was also a lifelong fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers, proudly cheering on his hometown team through every season—win or lose.



Jim Ogilvie playing bugle for Friday Squad.



Frank Kebelman presented shells to Jim's family.



Gene Kuwik created and presented a book with photos from James's time on MSD.



Jim Ogilvie with former Friday squad member Robert Harmon.

# Fred Fierros Balderrama



Former MSD member Fred Fierros Balderrama, of La Coste, Texas, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on May 8, 2025 at the age of 86 in Nolanville, Texas. He was born July 22, 1938 in Bexar County, Texas, to Augustin R. Balderrama and Micaela Fierros Balderrama.

He will be forever remembered and loved by his sons, Fred R. Balderrama, Jr. of Harker Heights, Texas, Steven R. Balderrama (Lori) of Junction City, Kansas; daughters, Connie B. Williamson (Kirby) of Nolanville, Texas, Melissa Balderrama of La Coste, Texas, and Esmeralda Balderrama of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; sisters, Virginia Bramlett and Cordelia Jimenez, brothers, Augustine F. Balderrama

(Beatrice), Guadalupe F. Balderrama, and Fidel F. Balderrama, sisters-in-law, Anita Brown and Sharlene Romero. Also left to cherish his memory are his grandchildren, Alex Balderrama, Gabriela Queener, Joseph Balderrama, Teresa Jandrain, Elisa Hardin, Norman Sammons, Ronnie Sammons, Amanda Alfaro, and Miguel Martin along with numerous great-grandchildren.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Mary Helen Romero Balderrama; sisters, Patricia Mendez and Rosa F. Balderrama; brothers Raymond F. Balderrama, and Manuel Balderrama.

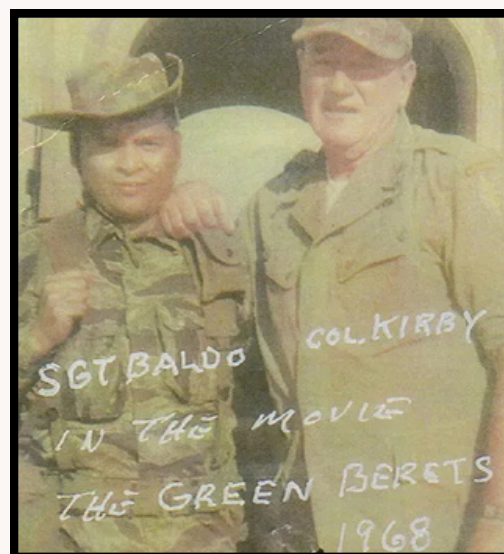
He was a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He was proud of all his children and lived life to the fullest. He will be remembered for his boundless generosity, unwavering patriotism, and the joy he brought to those around him. His smile, laughter, and stories will be deeply missed.

He grew up in Western Bexar County near La Coste, Texas. He served in the United States Army for 32 years. He was a proud paratrooper with the 173rd and was in the Special Forces. He was also in the Texas State Guard for 11 years and was a Vietnam Veteran. His dedication extended beyond active duty. He was an active member of several veterans' organizations including the VFW, Knights of Columbus, Alamo Silver Wings, Ft. Sam Memorial Services Detachment, and the American Legion.

He even appeared in the John Wayne film *The Green Berets*, where he earned the nickname "Baldo"—a name he embraced ever since. When they asked him what his name was he told them Balderrama, and they said "oh no that is too long" so they shortened it to Baldo and the rest is history!

His duty stations were at Ft. Benning, Georgia, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, Ft. Clayton, Panama, Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, Ft. Buchanan, Puerto Rico and Ft. Hood, Texas.

The family would like to thank everyone for their love, friendship, support and prayers. They all helped and will continue to do so in the difficult time ahead.



# Memorial Day 2025

On 26 May, Monday Squad provided the firing of Volleys and taps for the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony. The cemetery hosted a ceremony featuring an address by Congressman Henry Cuellar, music by the 323rd Army Band and the Alamo Metro Chorus, and a colors presentation by the Southwest Legacy High School Navy JROTC.

The Travis Manion Foundation, The Mission Continues, and Flags for Fallen Vets also had events and activities around the cemetery to honor veterans over the Memorial Day Weekend..



(Above) Monday Squad member Porfirio Montellano played Taps for the ceremony. (Below) The ceremony was well attended!



(Left) Monday Squad performed honors for Memorial Day. (Right) The Alamo Metro Chorus sang a medley of patriotic songs.



# MSD Recruiting

Members of MSD have been busy recruiting at BAMC, with many more events coming up! We are deeply appreciative to BAMC for their support as we educate patrons about our organization, and bring new members to our squads!

For those wishing to volunteer, here are the upcoming recruiting events:

September 10/17

October 8/15

Setup at 10/recruiting 1030-noon

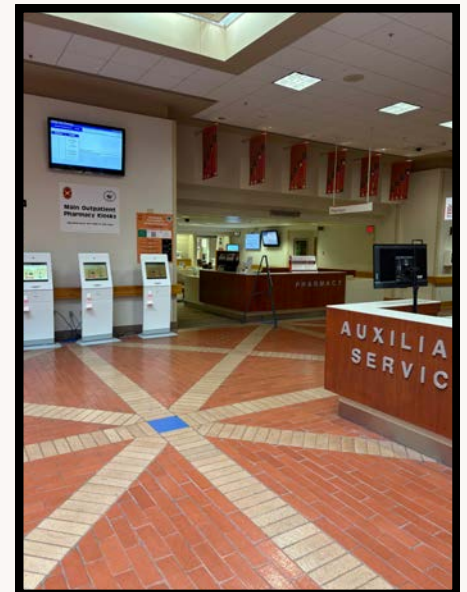
September 13/JBSA Randolph Retiree Appreciation Day/0730-noon



(Above) Thursday Squad member Katie Shortland greets passerbys at the recruiting table at BAMC.



(Left) Squad members Frank Kebelman, Katie Shortland and Gordan Brewer, along with Gordan's wife, at BAMC.





*Visit with old friends and  
make new ones.*

**ID Cards (Bldg 399)**

**TRICARE**

**559 Medical Squadron**

**Casualty Assistance**

**Randolph Legal**

**Randolph Chapel**

**Air Force Association**

**MOAA/NCOA**

**Veterans Benefit Admin**

**Texas Veterans Commission**

**FSH National Cemetery**

**AAFES**

**and many more**

**September 13, 2025**  
**JBSA-RANDOLPH**  
**RETIREE APPRECIATION**  
**DAY**

**At the Randolph  
Kendrick Club**


*Celebrating Retirees from all services  
and their dependents.*

*Opening Ceremony at 0800*

*Booths open until 1200*



Join this Retiree Appreciation Day celebrating retirees from all services and their dependents.

 September 13th | 8AM - 12PM

 Randolph Kendrick Club

 Learn More: <https://ow.ly/p3ZH50WIZnz>

 More resources for veterans over 55+: <https://ow.ly/iEhT50WIZny>