



EL VETERANO

"Lord make us an instrument of thy peace. . ."

Mile Hi Chapter of the American GI Forum

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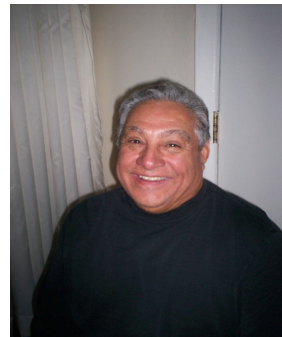
Ernie Torres is Elected Commander of the Mile Hi Chapter

At our December General Membership—Election Meeting, Ernie Torres was elected, by acclamation, as the Mile Hi Chapter Commander. Commander Torres has expressed his gratitude to the Membership and hopes that he can represent the Mile Hi Chapter in a manner that all can take pride. Commander Torres indicates that his administration will be "open" and "accessible" to all Members.

With the help of the Executive Board, the Board of Trustee and the Membership, he believes that "if we all work together", 2010 will be a successful year.

Ernie was born in Denver. He graduated from Lincoln High school in 1968. He worked odd-jobs until his name was selected for the Draft. Rather than being drafted he joined the United States Army in 1970. He was deployed to Vietnam and served as a Door Gunner for the 61st Assault Helicopter Company, 1st Aviation Brigade. During his tour of duty he served in the Central Highlands and flew over 50 combat missions throughout Viet Nam. He was awarded two air medals; one with a V-device and the Vietnamese Campaign Medal. After his tour in Vietnam he served in the Colorado National

Guard. He was Honorably Discharged in 1973. Ernie retired after 30 years of ser-



Commander Torres

vice with IBM.

Ernie has been a Member of the Mile Hi Chapter for over 9 years

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Special points of interest:

- Hamburger Night—Every Wednesday - Karaoke
- Dancing Lessons - Feb.5 Line, Cha Cha, .etc.
- Super Bowl - Feb 7, Food, prizes and more
- Valentine's Day Dance - Feb. 12 - Featuring "Los Amigos"

Mile Hi Chapter to Honor Vietnam War Veterans

April 30, 1975: At 8:35 a.m., the last Americans, ten Marines from the embassy, depart Saigon, concluding the U.S. presence in Vietnam. North Vietnamese troops pour into

Saigon and encounter little resistance.

Latinos answered the call to combat in Vietnam in unprecedented numbers and paid a heavy price: One in two Latinos who

went to Vietnam served in a combat unit, 1 in 3 were wounded in action, 1 in 5 were killed in action. Over 58,000 names are inscribed on "The Wall" (Continued pg. 2)



JOIN THE "EL VETERANO" NEWS LETTER TEAM

We are seeking Volunteers to help us with the Newsletter. If you would like to be a contributing writer, editor, photographer, layout person, etc., please contact Cipriano Griego

Hamburger Night every Wednesday - Karaoke - begins at 6:30 p.m..



"The Wall"



AGIF-Mile Hi Chapter Color/Honor Guard at the Vietnam Memorial

Commander's Report



Scott Hamilton, Figure skater, and a cancer survivor, believes that "we are defined by how we deal with setbacks in our lives". He's credo: "The only true disability in life is a bad attitude."

I thank all the members that supported my election. I became a Mile Hi member in the early part of 2001, my involvement was mostly social. It wasn't too long before I was being introduced by Commander Jose Martinez to the fellow members, which caused me to attend the Monthly Meetings, consequently I was appointed chair the Member-

ship Committee. As the Chair, I met and got to know almost all of the new members. Since my retirement from IBM, in 2003, I have enjoyed using my technical skills at the Mile Hi. I created/built the AGIF Website, the Membership Data Base, setting up our internet "HOT SPOT", and using QuickBooks. I feel my best skill is customer service. I have worn many hats, learned many things about the operations of the Chapter. Our Chapter has many members with the Education, skills, knowledge, contacts and resources, to continue to

be, not only the largest AGIF Chapter in the US, but also the most active, and best professionally run.

My Goals:

- To have joint meetings with the various Board and Committees regarding matter of mutual concern.
- Maintain an "Open Door" policy, where any member may propose any positive idea to better serve our Organization.

Mile Hi Chapter to Honor Vietnam War Veterans (Cont)

which honors the war dead.

In the past two years the Mile Hi Chapter has honored WWII Veterans and Korean Veterans.

This year we will honor our Vietnam Veterans.

The majority of our Veteran Members served in Vietnam.

In October, the Veterans Affairs Committee will sponsor the "Vietnam Veterans Recognition Dinner".

This dinner will honor both Member and Non-

Member Vietnam Veterans.

The Committee is requesting that our Members submit name of individuals, who served in Vietnam and who are not member; submit the names to Jerry Duran, Chair, Veteran's Affairs Committee.

Any Member wishing to volunteer in the planning of this auspicious event is encouraged to contact Jerry Duran,

I stand before the WALL with a tear running down my

face, it reflects the sorrow and pain of the heart.

As another tear rolls down my cheek it reflects the cold hard glare of black stone whose face has a chisel look. With the falling of another tear you can see the boyish fun of old friends who are no more.

As I fight to hold back the tears their gentle hands reach out to my heart saying we are here for you. With their touch, my tears say I'm sorry that I came home and that you stayed behind. As the tears flow I know that the boy I was then is no longer, for only a man can cry for lost friends.

For I cry A Tear For Those Who gave Their All

... Guy L. Jones,



Women's Chapter Report - Mary Acosta, Chair

The Mile High Women's Chapter is off to a good start. Our first meeting was held on Thursday, January 21. We discussed goals for the year, brainstormed ideas for fund raisers, and planned to support the Veterans in their projects throughout the year. We will also be supporting our Youth Chapter with their community activities and have committed to helping them with the recruitment of youth. Roberta Moreno, vice-chairwoman, has been elected as Youth Advisor.

There will be a quarterly State Women's meeting held soon. More information will be sent as soon as all the details have been confirmed.

The Mile High Women's Chapter has changed the meeting date to the last Tuesday of the month. The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, February 23 6:30 PM at the Mile High Chapter. We invite all women to attend the meetings, to get involved with our various activities, and to support the veterans and our youth group.

Mary Acosta
AGIF – Mile High Chapter
Chairwoman 2010

Many will be shocked to find,
When the day of judgment nears,
That there's a special place in
Heaven,
Set aside for volunteers.



Mile Hi Players

The Mile Hi Player are a group of volunteer Members who sing (?), act (?) and/or help create and present various performances throughout the year.

Under the direction of Ricardo La Fore this group has for the past 6 year performed to standing room only crowds.

Each performance includes a portion dedicated to Veterans. The Player donate countless hours of their time to assure a profession presentation. Any Member who would like to joint the Mile Hi Players may contact Ricardo La Fore, Richard Gonzales or Cipriano Griego.

If you can sing, dance, or act or if you wish to work on lighting, sound, set design, or as a stage hand, please join us.

Mile Hi Chapter's Elected Officers

Executive Board

Commander: Ernie Torres
Vice Commander: Lou Cordova
Women's Chair: Mary Acosta
Women's Vice Chair: Roberta Moreno
Treasurer: Dottie Bruton
Secretary: Patricia Lara
Sergeant at Arms: Mile Lara

Board of Trustees

Chair: Cipriano Griego
Treasurer: Kathy Clinin
Secretary: Leroy Lemos
Toby Rampa
Dan Montez
Ernie Torres - Commander
Mary Acosta - Women's Chair

Education Committee Report



Chair: John Acosta

The Education Committee is excited about the prospects for 2010 and has scheduled many events this year that we hope are both profitable and fun. With an eye on both providing service for the Mile High chapter and raising

scholarship money, we have already begun plans for activities such as Enchilada Open Golf Tournament at Willis Case in late May or early June; a Wine Tasting Extravaganza; a delicious Chili Cook Off; the Century Club; and many other activities that support others at the Forum.

Committee members Dottie Bruton, Kathy Clinin, Lorraine Jiron, Dolores Mar-

tinez, José Martinez, Robert Quiñonez, Nita Vela, Mary Acosta and John Acosta (chairman) feel re-energized after a successful 2009 and with the promise that 2010 brings.

The Education Committee will meet the first Tuesday of the month, at 6:00 p.m. at 1717 Federal Blvd. Any new members who want to share in the fun are welcome.

CHECK OUR WEB SITE:

<http://www.agif-milehi.org>

For Calendar of Events and Other Information.



Mile Hi Chapter of the American GI Forum

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**"Education is our Freedom and
Freedom Should Be Everybody's
Business"**

We're on the web:

<http://www.agif-milehi.org>

The American GI Forum, a veterans family organization since 1948 is the only Congressionally Chartered non-profit Hispanic Veterans organization in the United States. In 1965, the Mile High Chapter was organized and constitutionally chartered as an affiliate member.

OUR GOALS INCLUDE:

- Protect and support veterans and families rights.
- Provide veterans and families with resources in securing their benefits.
- Preserve the principles of democracy/political and religious beliefs.
- Encourage and support improved educational opportunities for Hispanic youth.
- Provide and secure funds for Scholarship Programs for Hispanics.
- Assisting disadvantage senior citizens and youth.
- Developing and supporting leadership programs for our youth.
- Provide and support Hispanic issues.

Trustee's Report

The Board of Trustees (BOT) is responsible for the physical facilities. It is organized as a separate non-profit Corporation which hold title to the property and the premises. The Liquor License and associated licenses are held in its name. In addition, the rental of the Hall and other contractual obligations are within its responsibility.

The BOT pays all debts

associated with the building and its operation, including taxes, insurance, utilities, maintenance, labor, inventory, etc.

The BOT derives its income from the bar operations, parking fees, pickle revenues, and rental fees.

The Trustees are elected by the Membership and serve 3 year terms, staggered terms. The Officers of the BOT are the Chair,

the Secretary and the Treasurer. (See: pg. 3)

The BOT has selected Toby Rampa as its Bar Manager; Leroy Lemos as the Operations Manager and; Cipriano Griego as the Maintenance Manage. Dan Montez will assist each manager in their respective duties.

The BOT meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The meeting are open to the Membership.



Dr. Hector P. Garcia

Founder

