

# Veterans working to add bronze eagle to Veterans War Memorial

**By MIRTHA McCLAIN**  
**Public Relations Director**  
**City of San Benito**

With approval from the San Benito City Commission last week, the Veterans Advisory Board is moving forward on acquiring a stately bronze eagle statue to complement the local War Memorial on Sam Houston Blvd.

Fundraising efforts for the eagle statue have been ongoing through the sale of commemorative engraved bricks and black granite engraved benches by the San Benito Veterans Advisory Board. “No taxpayer funds will be used. It is strictly being paid for through our fundraising,” said Board Chairman Victor Garza.

“Last week, two local citizens stepped forward to purchase two benches to honor family members who served in the Military,” according to Garza. The benches are offered at \$2,500 each.

They include Jack Ayoub whose family is honoring family members George, Jack and David Ayoub. Also, Ben Fry is commemorating the service of family members Ben Fry Sr., Ben Fry Jr. and Wilson Fry.

“Their combined efforts added \$5,000 to our fund,” Garza said noting also that Fry purchased four engraved bricks in addition, for an additional \$400 to the fund.

“This Veterans War Memorial is dedicated to the men and women from this area who served our country over the decades, especially those who while at war, were Killed in Action or who are Missing in Action,” according to Garza.

The eagle statue will be the third bronze piece to be erected in the facility. It is projected to feature a majestic eagle in flight, carrying an olive branch, symbolizing the desire for worldwide peace. It will be placed atop a black granite obelisk in the fountain near the entrance to the Memorial.

The first was a Tribute to the Fallen Soldier that features a pair of worn Army boots, M-1 bayonet rifle with its tip buried in stones, a helmet atop the rifle and dog tags. It sits in the center of the War Memorial.

The second is a Soldier with Duffel Bag, representing the Korean War military. It depicts a uniformed Army soldier with his possessions in his duffel bag, standing in wait for the train that would take him off to war.

The Veterans Board is also planning the addition of five black granite markers engraved with the names of those brave individuals in each of our major wartime actions, Garza said.

“We ask for your generous support. This phase of our project will cost about \$50,000,” Garza added.

Anyone with information about local military personnel who were KIA or MIA are asked to contact Martha McClain, liaison to the Veterans Advisory Board at 956-361-3804 Ext. 301.

## KIA & MIA Servicemen from the San Benito Area

### **World War I**

#### **From San Benito**

Salaman Lerma  
George H. Fredricks  
Alejandro Garcia Trevino

### **World War II**

James Alsobrook  
Feliberto C. Atkinson  
Raul F. Banos  
Juan Barrientos  
Orlin Batchelor  
Lewis Laverne Bauer  
Ramon Benavides  
James Bone  
Wilmer O. Bridges  
Marcelo Rendon Casas  
Jack Whalen Clark  
Vivan Danley  
Dwight Day  
Dayton Durham  
Frank Erwin  
Stanley Erwin  
Ascension H. Esparza  
Willie Z. Esparza  
William Benjamin Fry  
Jose P. Fuentes  
Gonzalo G. Garcia  
Gregorio G. Garcia  
Raul Garcia  
Rodolfo S Garcia Jr.  
Vincent L. Garcia  
Alejandro Garza  
James Emory Glenn  
Adolfo Gonzalez  
Santos Guerra  
Charles Jack Halbert  
James Dale Herndon  
Willis Howie Jr.  
Pablo M. Juarez  
Earl W. Kenny  
John Lee Kirkham  
Howard Knox  
Israel Leal  
Juan Leal  
Arthur Earl McMillan  
Eleazar L. Moody  
Paul Moses

Benito Rangel  
Samuel G. Reyes  
Emilio Reyes Villarreal  
Wilma R. Vinsant Shea  
Joseph L. Wagner  
F.S. Walters  
Jay Wells  
Jesse M. Whisenant  
Leighton O. Anderson  
Raul Banuelos  
Abel Betts  
Frank Earl Cowart  
Samuel Hinojosa  
Meldon A. Noah  
Alvin C. Pendegrass Jr.  
Jose Ramirez  
Charles Ricks  
Benito Rosales  
Gregorio Ruiz  
Dixon E. Walker

#### **From Lantana**

Thomas Thurston Beene

#### **From Rio Hondo**

Joseph Stanley Brown  
Pius M. Davis  
Andres Gonzales  
Roy Long  
James Robinson  
Librado Rodriguez  
Johnnie Emil Wick  
David W. Wilds  
Jimmy Yoeman

#### **From Los Fresnos**

Horace Richard Watson  
Paul M. Whitlock  
Jose Angel Tolento  
George J. Grabowski  
Charles Wayne Countz

### **Korea**

#### **From San Benito**

Enrique M. Atkinson  
Alfredo Carrizales  
Gilberto Casas  
Roberto Corkill

For Florencio Pedraza  
Heriberto Loya Reyna  
Victor Garcia

#### **From Cameron County**

Lucio R. Aguilar  
Ruben Barron  
Pedro Caballero  
Felipe Champion  
Jesus D. Correa  
Tommy De Lapena  
Manuel Galvan  
Victor Garcia  
Gilberto Garza  
Francisco Hernandez  
Charles Highsmith  
Basilio Martinez  
Luis P. Martinez  
Martin Palomo  
Ramiro F. Silva  
Ricardo F. Solis  
William E. Sosebee  
Thomas Spencer  
Harvey H. Storms  
Herlindo Tabares  
Refugio C. Tamayo

### **Viet Nam**

#### **From San Benito**

Donald Ray Allen  
Ross Owen Barlow  
Robert Arnold Corkill  
Genero Garza  
Antonio Hernandez  
Sigfredo Montalvo Jr.  
Antonio Morado  
Albert L. Perez  
Julian Robles Rodriguez  
Timeoteo Munoz Santiago, Jr.  
Rodolfo Villafranco  
Rolando G. Villarreal  
Antonio Silva

### **Iraq & Afghanistan**

#### **From San Benito**

Juan Guadalupe Garza Jr.  
Adriana Alvarez  
Samuel Tapia

*For corrections or additions to this list, please mail name with  
documentation to Martha McClain at 956-361-3804, Ex. 301*

*Or email [mmcclian@cityofsanbenito.com](mailto:mmcclian@cityofsanbenito.com)*