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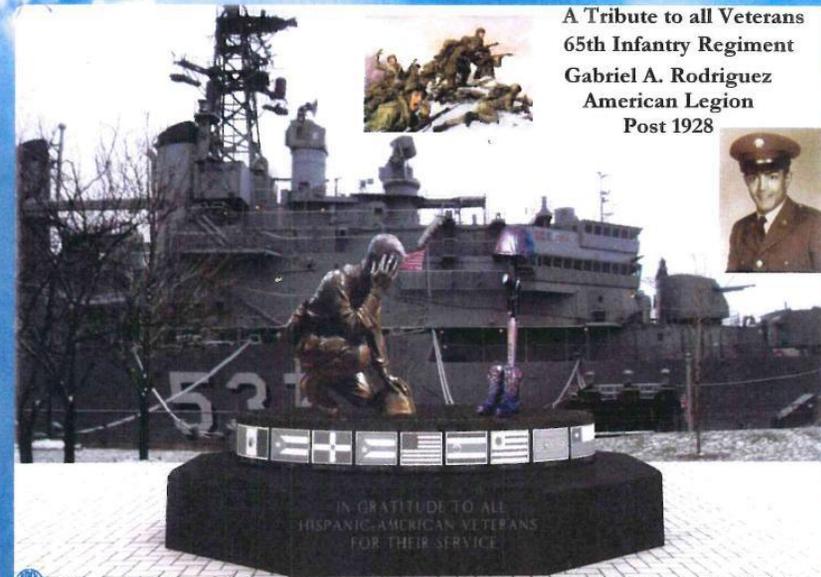
Hispanic American Veteran's Memorial



Benefit Reception

Buffalo Club

May 11, 2012



A Tribute to all Veterans
65th Infantry Regiment
Gabriel A. Rodriguez
American Legion
Post 1928

Stone Art Memorial

Architect: Brad Wales

Buffalo - Erie County Naval & Military Park

Buffalo's Waterfront



Hispanic Veteran's Memorial Committee

Jose G. Rivera,	Benigno V. Rodriguez
Col. Patrick J. Cunningham[R]	Ventura J. Colon
Maj. Carlos M. Benitez [R]	Juventino Mejia
Rosemary Caicedo,	Jose Pizarro
Lourdes T. Iglesias	Felicia Cruz
Sergio R. Rodriguez	Margarita Rivera
Ralph R. Hernandez	Casimiro D. Rodriguez Sr.

Crystal Rodriguez -Lane, Esq.

Reception - Committee

Nestor Hernandez

Kelly Navarro

Orlando Perez

David Rodriguez, Esq.

Crystal Rodriguez -Lane, Esq.

Casimiro D. Rodriguez Sr.

Reception - Program

Musical Interlude

Reception

Meet & Greet - Get Acquainted

Welcome - Introductions

Photo Slide Show: Gabriel A. Rodriguez
American Legion Post 1928

Video Clip: 65th Infantry Regiment
BORINQUENEERS

Testimonials

Gratitude's

Special Thanks - Attorney Adam Perry for your support on making this event possible.

Buffalo, New York will be the home to the 5th location of a Hispanic Memorial Monument in the U.S.

Other Memorial Monument Location's

Sacramento, California - San Antonio, Texas - Waukesha, Wisconsin - Orlando, Florida

Project Outline

The preliminary concept of the monument consists of a life size lone infantryman reverently kneeling in front of the Fallen Soldier Cross paying his last tribute to a comrade. The two bronze sculptures sit atop a black granite ellipse which symbolizes eternity. The outer edge of the ellipse has 22 engraved flags: the United States of America (USA) flag and 21 flags representing all the Latin American countries.

Underneath the ellipse is a black octagon-shaped granite with an engraved phrase stating: *In gratitude to all Hispanic-American Veterans for their service.* On the opposite side are the 5 engraved emblems of all the Armed Forces: Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard. Five benches will surround the site providing a space for respite and reflection. The ground will be adorned with 460 personalized engraved brick pavers. This will allow public and private participation in the process of *leaving a legacy.*

The *Fallen Soldier* sculpture is life-size and life-like in every detail. It is cast in American bronze. In its standard form the sculpture measures 45" tall - including the bronze base which is 7" tall and measures 18" x 22" from front to back. The weight is approximately 150 pounds.

The patina (coloration) is a traditional chocolate brown (also known as statuary brown). Four mounting nuts are welded in each corner under the base of the sculpture for secure and permanent installation on the granite base. This is a classic quality state and built to last for hundreds of years.

The infantry soldier sculpture is a life-like bronze man kneeling down reflecting and paying homage to a fellow soldier. The statue measures 35" tall x 33" long x 24" wide.

The ground area will be covered by pavers. Inscribed pavers are planned to memorialize the men and women who have served our country and are now deceased. The public will be able to pay tribute to our American spirit and immortalize their family or friends by sponsoring a memorial brick in the walkway.

The monument will be installed at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval Park where the general public will have full access and opportunity to view and appreciate the artistic value of the monument.

Whenever a serviceman or woman dies in the line of duty, it is customary to arrange their boots, rifle, and helmet. That arrangement is called the Battlefield Cross, Battle Cross or the Fallen Soldier Cross. The Battlefield Cross symbolizes a fallen warrior or hero. The rifle pointing downwards into the ground is a memorial of a soldier killed in action. The rifle is capped with a helmet and perhaps dog tags, and at the bottom, a pair of combat boots to represent the last march of the battle. These three items are essential gear for all service members, now the service member has no further need for them.

The following is a breakdown of funds needed to build and install the monument:

(2) Bronze Statues (rifle and helmet/mourning soldier)	\$ 68,486
(1) Base (American granite)	49,876
(5) Ruggedized benches (wood and steel)	7,500
(1) Signage (on stone structure)	10,000
Foundation and Landscape	3,000
Brick/Paver flooring	9,000
	\$147,862



Angelo M. Otero

Born in 1948 Cataño, Puerto Rico the second to seven children to Pellin & Carmen Otero. Master Sergeant Angel Manuel Otero is a Viet Nam Era veteran whose career began in 1968 and extended for 26 years.

He held many military job skills to include Communications, Combat Engineers, Military Police, Recruiting and Career Counseling Field. In 1978 as a Staff Sergeant he applied for and was selected to attend Officers Candidate School at the Empire State Military Academy. He graduated with honors and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Military Police Corps. Having a great love for the Non Commissioned Officer Corps, he reverted back to those roots, and later was promoted to the rank of Sergeant First Class.

He was assigned the Adjutant General Corps. There he was assigned as a recruiting Sergeant in the Western New York area. In 1984 he attended the Air Assault School at Fort Campbell Kentucky and earned his air wings for his proficiency in the Air Assault combat and tactical Operations. After graduating from the Air Assault School, he was reassigned to the AG Corps, to resume his recruiting duties. Shortly there after, for outstanding accomplishments and dedication to duty, he was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant. He was appointed as Non Commissioned Officer in Charge of Recruiting, command. Seeing a need to expand his proficiency he attended the Army Career Counseling School at Fort Ben Harrison Indiana. Upon completion Sergeant Otero was assigned to the Military Entrance Processing Station in Buffalo Federal Building. There he was responsible for securing career school assignments for the new enlistee.

In 1996 Master Sergeant considered and requested permission for retirement from service. Concurrently he was nominated for attendance to the Sergeant Major Academy. He pondered the opportunity and elected for a career in civilian life. Master Sergeant Angel Otero received many decorations in his military tenure. Among them are the National Defense Service Medal, the Meritorious Service medal (5) awards, the Army Commendation Medal(3) awards, the Federal Humanitarian medal, and the Good Conduct Medal (6) awards. He has also received a number of awards by the State of New York for his service. Among them the Conspicuous Service Medal, and the New York State Commendation Medal.

Upon his retirement Mr. Otero entered a career with the United States Postal Service, he is married to Marcia Osika for 38 years they live in Pendleton, N.Y.

David J. Shenk



U.S. Army Reserve since 1988 and in 1990-1991 served in Operation Desert Storm and 2003 in Operation Iraqi Freedom and in 2010-2011 Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2011, he received the Bronze Star Medal. In 2010, he received his second Army Commendation Medal.

Named 2011 "Town Clerk of the Year. Each year local non-profit groups benefit from a "David J. Shenk Foundation" grant. Received Business First 40 Under 40 award, in 2009. Currently Erie County Comptroller. Graduate of B.S. in Management from Houghton College, married to Polly France.

Gratitude of Thanks

For all the Testimonials and the expressions of support on behalf of the all the Veterans, the Families and all those that will make this Hispanic Veterans Memorial Monument possible.



Hon. Felix Ortiz

In 1980, Assemblyman Ortiz moved from Puerto Rico to the United States. He graduated from Boricua College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from New York University (NYU) in 1986. Upon completing his schooling, Mr. Ortiz joined the United States Army and served our country from 1986 until he was honorably discharged in 1988.

He was elected to the office of New York State Assembly in November 1994. Once elected, Assemblyman Ortiz went to work for people of all ages who were in need. During his tenure in office he has called attention to many unjust labor violations in various industries. He continues the fight to hold these industries accountable for their horrendous labor violations and has forced them to comply with state and federal labor laws and worker safety conditions. To this day, Assemblyman Ortiz continues to monitor labor and wage practices and the safety conditions.

In 2001, Assemblyman Ortiz was appointed to serve as Chair of the Assembly Task Force on Food Farm and Nutrition Policy. Assemblyman Ortiz passed New York's first Statewide Child Obesity Education Program law which ensures that nutritionally based education programs be a part of every classroom. He continues the fight to pass laws mandating that fast food restaurants post the nutritional value of foods.

Assemblyman Ortiz serves as President of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators and many other Labor and Workforce Committee's locally, statewide and nationally. He is an Executive Committee Board Member of the Council of State Governments (CSG). Assemblyman Ortiz is a member of the Assembly Standing Committees of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; Corporations, Authorities and Commissions; Corrections; Economic Development, Job Creation, Commerce and Industry; Energy; Labor; and Banks and the Assembly Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force, and the Black & Puerto Rican Legislative

Assemblyman Ortiz continues to lead a distinguished career in public service. He is nationally and internationally recognized as an elected official who is not afraid to take on unpopular issues and forge solutions on behalf of the people he represents.

EUGENIO "Geno" Russi



Born in 1949, in Patillas Puerto Rico. He is the fifth of nine children to Armando & Otilia Russi. His father and mother were part of the founding members of the Puerto Rican American Community Center (Pucho Inc.)

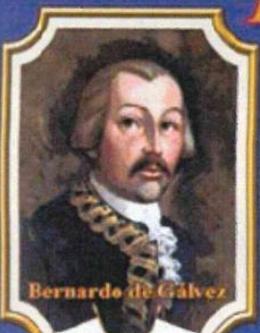
In 1957, his family arrived in Buffalo, NY, where he joined his father who was working at the Bethlehem Steel Plant in the City of Lackawanna NY. They lived in downtown Buffalo where he attended St Anthony Grammar School, then went on to Boys Vocational High School in Buffalo. After graduating in 1968, Gino enlisted in the US Air Force where he worked as a airplane and helicopter mechanic in the US and Europe.

He received an Honorable discharge in 1972, and landed in various labor jobs while attending college at night. In 1980, he graduated from D'Youville College with a degree in Management.

A short time later he joined the New York State Division of Parole where he worked as a Parole Officer and after several promotions, in 2006, became the Regional Director for the Western Region which includes the 20 counties from Delaware and across New York State.

He is a very proud to say that he comes from a family of Community Activists and Veterans dating back to 1917 the year Puerto Ricans were granted US Citizenship and his grandfather, Faustino Russi served in the U.S. Army in the World War I.

LATINO BLOOD, AMERICAN HEARTS



Bernardo de Gálvez

1775-1783

American Revolution



World War II
and the
"Banzai Cliffs"

Hollywood portrays U.S. Marine **Guy Gabaldon**

1781 Expedition by **Captain Fernando Noronha de Rivera y Vinuela**

"Legacy of Service"
Soldados de California

1898
Spanish American War
Santiago de Cuba

Tejano Vs. Mejjicano

Battle of the Alamo - March 6, 1836

Juan N. Seguin

1824 **Battle of the Alamo**

1861-1865 - **THE CIVIL WAR**

TEXAS

Santos Benavides
1825-1900

Col. Benavides
"Partisan Rangers"
33rd Texas Cavalry



1781 - Battle in Pensacola

American Revolution
Spain's support vital to the United States Independence

Pearl Harbor, Sunday morning, December 7, 1941

Ensign **Manuel Gonzalez** became the first casualty of World War II when he was shot down by the Japanese

USS Hartford
1864 - Battle of Mobile Bay

David G. Farragut

Hispanics in America's Defense

David Glasgow Farragut's ancestry is traced back to Don Pedro Farragut, "El Conquistador," campaigning against the Moors - Spain, 15th Century, King James I of Aragon