



NEWS Release

City of Rockport · 2751 SH 35N Bypass · Rockport, Texas 78382 · (361) 729-2213

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: RICK MARTINEZ, DIRECTOR, PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES
PHONE: (361) 727-2158

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE IN ROCK PORT

ROCKPORT, TX -- In honor of the men and women who lost their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces, a special Memorial Day Observance will be held on Monday, May 31, at 2 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Park on Austin Street. The event is free and open to the public.

The ceremony will include presentation and posting of the colors, a musical tribute, and performance of the "National Anthem" by the Veterans Band of Corpus Christi, as well as a "Report of Units" from the American GI Forum Post & Unit #324F, Carl Morrison American Legion Post & Unit #363 & Sons of the Legion, and Stewart-Wendell Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3904. This is the 36th consecutive year of the Memorial Day Observance in Rockport.

Guest speaker for the event is Rockport native Sergeant Major Ruben R. Garcia (Retired). SGM Garcia entered the United States Army 4 August 1988. He completed Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training and Airborne Training at Fort Benning, Georgia.

SGM Garcia's duty assignments include Rifleman and Machine Gunner, Bravo Company 1st-501st Parachute Infantry Battalion, Fort Richardson, Alaska; Team Leader and Squad Leader Bravo Company 2nd-325th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Instructor,

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Alpha Company (Airborne), Jungle Operations Training Center, Fort Sherman, Panama; Squad Leader, Bravo Company 2nd-325th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg North Carolina; Platoon Sergeant, Bravo Company 1st-503rd Infantry Regiment (AASLT), Camp Casey, Korea; Platoon Sergeant, Alpha Company 1st-505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Observer Controller and First Sergeant, 3rd Brigade 85th Division, Indianapolis, Indiana; G-3 Operations Sergeant Major, 13th Sustainment Command Expeditionary, Fort Hood, Texas; First Sergeant 209th Quartermaster Company, Balad, Iraq; First Sergeant Alpha Company 2nd-506th Infantry Regiment (AASLT) and SGM CJTF-101 CJ-5, 101st ABN DIV (AASLT) Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Student United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas; SGM, Senior Enlisted Advisor COS Hammer, Besmaya Combat Training Center, Iraq; United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Staff Group Advisor Instructor, Fort Bliss, Texas.

SGM Garcia's awards include Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (2OLC), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, The Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (8OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (3OLC), the Army Good Conduct Medal (7OLC), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, The National Defense Service Medal (2), the Korean Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2CS), the Iraqi Campaign Medal (3CS), the Government War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Government War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal with (Bronze Star), the NATO Medal (ISAF), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon (7), Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (4), Basic Parachutist Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Expert

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Infantryman Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge. His unit awards include the Meritorious Unit Citation (1OLC), Army Superior Unit Award (1OLC), and Joint Meritorious Unit Award (1OLC). Foreign awards include the German Parachutist Badge, Schützenschnur, and Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency, Royal Thailand Airborne Wings.

His deployments include Afghanistan 2002-2003 and 2008-2009, Iraq 2006-2007 and 2010-2011, and Saudi Arabia 1997 Security Operations.

SGM Garcia's military education includes Primary Leadership Development Course, the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course, the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course, the First Sergeant Course, Sergeants Major Academy (Class 60), Basic Airborne Course, Jumpmaster School, PARA/Pack-MNT School, Basic Instructor Course, Faculty Development Phase 1,2, and 3, Systems Approach to Training Basic Course, and Unit Prevention Leader course. Basic Combatives Level 1 Course. Additionally, he received an Associates Degree from Fayetteville Technical Community College in General Education and a Bachelor's Degree from Indiana Wesleyan University in Business Management.

The speech will be followed by the Laying of the Wreath and Dedication.

This special event was organized by the local post of the Carl Morrison American Legion and the City of Rockport's Parks and Leisure Services Department. Immediately following the Memorial Day Observance program, refreshments will be served at the American Legion, located at 19701 South Church Street. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held at the American Legion.