



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Richard F. Cortez
County Judge

David L. Fuentes
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Precinct 4

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Commissioners Court honors women veterans

EDINBURG –At its June 6 meeting, Commissioners Court adopted a proclamation declaring the observance of Women Veterans Day on Wednesday, June 12. More than 40 veterans from all branches of the military attended the court and were given a standing ovation by a grateful county.

"We're among some very accomplished women," said Assistant Veteran Service Officer Samuel Perez Jr., prior to the reading of the proclamation. "A lot of these women have deployed in the Gulf War, the Iraq War and the Afghan War; some of them with numerous deployments."

President Harry S. Truman signed into law the Women's Armed Services Integration Act, enabling women to serve as regular members of the military, in 1948, however women have served in support positions and spies since the Revolutionary War. Among the dozens of women veterans present in support of the proclamation were four Hidalgo County employees: Dr. Marta Kang, United States Army, Director of Clinical Services at the Supervision and Corrections Department; Crystal Ortiz, United States Army, Legal Assistant in the District Attorney's Office; Norma Harlow, United States Navy, Senior Deputy Clerk at the County Clerk's Office; and JoAnna Oranday, United States Army, a Licensed Vocational Nurse at the Sheriff's Office.

"I think it's amazing that we are being honored today. I've learned a lot of different skills serving in the military that I still use today," said Ortiz. "One of those skills is imperative to my job with the county, and that is team work, which allows me to work well with others."

During World War I, more than 400 women were killed in action. In World War II approximately 400,000 women served in noncombat roles, including as mechanics, pilots, clerks, nurses, ambulance drivers, and field intelligence agents in the OSS, with 88 women taken prisoner of war and 16 killed in action.

The women received a standing ovation as Commissioners Court approved the proclamation. Each veteran also received a Women Veterans Challenge Coin provided by the Texas Veterans Commission and presented by each member of Commissioners Court.

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Photo: Women veterans are pictured with the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court following adoption of a proclamation declaring June 12, 2019 as Women Veterans Day in Texas.

Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the over 800,000 residents of our county. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility. Follow our social media feed at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/followus