

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA Symposium

*Distinguished Military Service Awards*

*Virtual Awards Ceremony  
September 23, 2021*





**Not all journeys start  
the same way.**

**This one is yours. Find a future.**

Walmart is here to support transitioning military, military spouses and veterans as you prepare for the next step in your journey. From one-on-one counseling and mentorships to public and private partnerships, our Find a Future program can help you make a difference in an entirely new way – no matter which way you want to go. **Walmart is proud to support the 18th National Latina Symposium.**

Learn more at [walmartfindafuture.com](http://walmartfindafuture.com)

**Walmart** 

 **Find a Future**  
Employment / Education / Entrepreneurship

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*



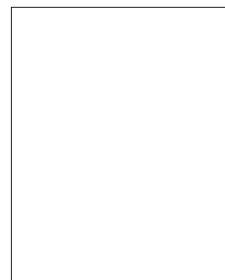
## Who we are, What we do

**L**ATINA *Style*, Inc. broke new ground in 1994 when Anna Maria Arias launched the first national magazine dedicated to the needs and concerns of the Latina professional workingwoman and the Latina business owner in the United States. Since then, LATINA *Style* has become the most influential publication reaching the professional Hispanic working woman in the nation. With a national circulation of 150,000 and a readership of over 600,000, LATINA *Style* Magazine is unique in its ability to reach the seasoned Latina professional, the Latina civic and political leader, and the young Latina entering the workforce for the first time. The culturally sensitive editorial environment of the magazine showcases Latina achievements in all areas of endeavor, including business, corporate America, science, education, civic and political affairs, and the military, to name a few. In addition to the critical information the magazine provides to its readers, LATINA *Style*, Inc. produces four of the most respected programs in the nation: the LATINA *Style* 50 Awards and Diversity Leaders Conference, the LATINA *Style* Business Series, the National LATINA *Symposium*, and the LATINA *Style* Hero Initiative. All programs are designed to highlight and profile Latina achievement and build a bridge with the general market.



## Behind the 18th Annual National LATINA *Symposium*

**L**atinas represent a powerful sector of the United States population. Today there are over seven million Hispanic women in the workforce and Latinas represent over 600,000 businesses, making them the fastest growing segment of the small business community. Their unique lifestyle, concerns, and needs clearly differentiate them from the general population. In addition, we can't forget that Latinas are continually excelling in non-traditional roles and industries. Since the inception of the National LATINA *Symposium* in 2004, Latinas from coast to coast have convened for a forum to address the most pressing issues affecting their daily lives. The highlight of the National LATINA *Symposium* is the Distinguished Military Service Awards honoring Latinas serving in the Armed Forces. As of this year we have recognized one hundred and ninety one women and four men. We invite you all to join us in our quest to recognize Latinas for their leadership, accomplishments, and commitment to building a strong community. Thank you for joining us in this celebration!



A close-up portrait of a woman in a military uniform, wearing a digital camouflage cap and jacket. She has a slight smile and is looking towards the camera. The background is blurred.

# A force to be recognized.

General Motors is proud to support the National LATINA Symposium and honors the outstanding achievements of Latinas in uniform.



everybody in.

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## WELCOME



**Robert E. Bard**  
President & CEO  
LATINA *Style*, Inc.

Welcome to the 18th Annual National LATINA *Symposium* – a celebration of Latina success and empowerment in our military forces! We are delighted that you have joined us virtually in this celebration honoring Latinas. Even though we're living in unprecedented times, it's still important to celebrate them as we have done over the last 17 years.

Since 2004, over 191 Hispanic women and four men have been recognized for their exemplary record and commitment to serve in our Nation's Armed Services. Their stories of courage and determination have inspired and motivated us all.

Although this year we will honor and congratulate them virtually, we are honored to showcase their work with you here. Not only are we proud to bring to you their stories, but we are excited to bring workshops for everyone. Whether you are in politics, corporate America, business, or an entrepreneur, our lineup of speakers will address topics on leadership, nurturing Latina success, and how to successfully transitioned from active military service to civilian and corporate career.

Besides the exciting workshops, the highlight of the Symposium is the *Distinguished Military Service Awards* ceremony. This year, we are proud to honor 17 outstanding Latinas from the many branches of the Armed Forces – active and civilian-military service. We are also proud to recognize The Honorable Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the United States Navy with the **Trailblazer Awards** and the Association of Naval Services Officers, ANSO with the **President's Award**.

We warmly invite you to attend the different workshops and join us for the Distinguished Military Service Awards. Let's make this conference the most memorable yet!

A heartfelt thanks to all our women and men serving our country, especially those serving in distant and dangerous lands. We await your safe return. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Bard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert E. Bard  
President & CEO

# LATINA *Style* Inc.

Empowering Latinas... One Woman at a Time

**18<sup>th</sup>** NATIONAL  
LATINA *Symposium*



**The National LATINA *Symposium*** is the only national conference focused on the achievements of Latinas in the Armed Forces, bringing together some of the most accomplished Latina and women leaders in our country.

Much More Than a Magazine



For more information please visit us at: [www.latinastyle.com](http://www.latinastyle.com)  
or contact us at: [robert@latinastyle.com](mailto:robert@latinastyle.com)



# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## HONORARY CHAIR

September 23, 2021

### *LATINA Style ~ 18<sup>th</sup> Annual National LATINA Symposium*



*On behalf of the United States Congress and my constituents of California's 32<sup>nd</sup> District, please allow me to extend a very warm welcome to all, at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual National LATINA Symposium. Thank you for continuing to support LATINA Style's mission to address the needs of Latina professionals, civic leaders, entrepreneurs, college students, but most especially, members of the Armed Services.*

*I am so proud to join in recognizing your 2021 Distinguished Military Service Award recipients: Command Sgt. Maj. Lirenell L. Mari-ciriaco (U.S. Army); MAJ Lidilia M.A. Garcia (U.S. Army); Delilah Ortiz-Meyer (U.S. Army); Sgt. Mayra L. Arambulajaimé (U.S. Marine Corps); Geraldina Sandoval (U.S. Marine Corps); Lt. j.g. Ana Mier (U.S. Navy); Petty Officer 1st Class Lorena Morales (U.S. Navy); Ms. Glenda Padro (U.S. Navy); Senior Master Sgt. Erika Luna (U.S. Air Force); Lt. Col. Cindy Serrano Roberts (U.S. Air Force); Ms. Hope Barber (U.S. Air Force); Petty Officer 2nd Class Laura J. Morales (U.S. Coast Guard); Carla Garcia (U.S. Coast Guard); 1/c Cadet Abigail Valadez (U.S. Coast Guard Academy); CAPT Jo-Ann F. Burdian (U.S. Coast Guard Academy); Maj. Sandra A. Wright (U.S. Army National Guard); and Spc. 4 Lesley S. Del Real (U.S. Space Force). These strong female individuals are to be commended for their exemplary service to our nation, raising cultural awareness, and enhancing the role of Latinas in the military and in society.*

*Finally, I would like to acknowledge and commend President Robert Bard, his lovely wife Lupita Colmenero, and everyone at LATINA Style for their steadfast commitment to all Latina women in the United States. Congratulations, and I wish you many more years of continued success.*

*In Friendship,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grace F. Napolitano". The signature is fluid and cursive.

*Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress*



**Nationwide®**  
is on your side

# Thank you for your service and bravery

You've dedicated your time and given your heart for your country. Now it's time to focus on what's next.

Nationwide® values the diverse talents and perspectives of military veterans. We consider it an honor when Latinas who have served choose us as an employer, and we're grateful for the opportunity to help them protect their future.

We're delighted to once again be recognized as a Top 50 U.S. Company for Latinas to Work For.

**Learn more:**  
**[nationwide.com/diversity](https://nationwide.com/diversity)**



# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## DISTINGUISHED CO-CHAIR

Major General Angela Salinas  
U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)

Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas (GSSWT) named Major General Angela (Angie) Salinas, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret) as Chief Executive Officer on July 1, 2015.

Salinas served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 39 years. She was the first Latina selected and promoted to the general officer ranks in the U.S. Marine Corps. At the time of her retirement in September 2013, she was the senior ranking woman and Hispanic in the Corps.

A Girl Scout alumna, Salinas is a role model to girls and women seeking to break through the glass ceiling. She was the first woman to command the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and the Western Recruiting Region, the first woman assigned as an Assistant Chief of Staff for plans and policy of a major combatant organization and the first woman assigned as a ground major's combat service support monitor. Her personal decorations include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal; the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with gold star; the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars; the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal; the Army Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars.

Salinas' accolades extend past her military experience. She is a 2018 San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Tribute to Women Business Leaders Hope Award, 2018 San Antonio Business Journal Women's Leadership Award, and 2018 American Latino Influencer Valor Award recipient. In 2016 she was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, Hispanic Women in Leadership Hall of Fame and received the TAMACC Woman of Distinction and Hope Hispanic Heritage award. She was named an inaugural Top Latino Leader by the National Diversity Council and was awarded the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award; the Hispanic Heritage of Texas Estrellas de Texas; Lifetime Achievement awards from Latina Style Magazine and North Star; the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Leadership Award; Women's International Center's Living Legacy Award; as well as being named one of 15 Phenomenal Women by Latina Magazine and one of six Power Latinas by Viva!a.com.

Salinas serves on the Board of Directors for the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, The First Tee of Greater San Antonio, Prospera Housing Community Services and the Young Marines National Board. She is a graduate of Masters Leadership Program San Antonio, a member of Excel Beyond the Bell and the Nonprofit Council and she serves on the San Antonio Airport System Development Committee. A native of Alice, Texas, she holds a Master of Arts from the Naval War College and a Bachelor's degree from the Dominican College of San Rafael, California. She was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Dominican University in 2015 and named a Distinguished Alumni in 2016.



**Major General  
Angela Salinas (Ret)**  
U.S. Marine Corps

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## DISTINGUISHED CO-CHAIR

Major General Linda Urrutia-Varhall  
U.S. Air Force (Ret)



**Major General  
Linda Urrutia-Varhall  
(Ret)**  
U.S. Air Force

Award-winning United States Air Force Major General with a 30+ year career as an integral contributor to national security, cyber security, geospatial, and diplomacy initiatives. Recognized as a change agent, diversity champion, and motivational leader, she cultivated collaborative, strategic, global partnerships and galvanized disparate groups to embrace emerging technologies and innovative solutions to address a myriad of strategic and operational challenges, issues, and problems.

She influenced policy, diplomacy, and operations domestically and internationally in various positions throughout the U.S., including the Pentagon; Europe; and Asia. As a subject matter expert and trusted advisor, Linda provided support to Cabinet-level officials, Congressional staff and members, intelligence community leaders, and the office of the President of the United States.

In her last role with the USAF, she served as the Director of Operations of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, leading a 7,500-person organization with a \$1.2B budget. As a team under her leadership they established and implemented priorities and strategies focused on geospatial expansion, including satellites, commercial, open source, and airborne imagery information for cutting-edge safety and navigation.

As the right hand to three Secretary of Defense(s) and a Director of National Intelligence, she advised the White House, CIA, and State Department to align objectives, develop strategic plans, execute policy, maximize resources, achieve overarching goals and resolve national security issues.

A passionate mentor and diversity champion, as the first Latina USAFA graduate and Air Force officer to achieve Major General rank, she embraces diversity and fosters professional growth and success of junior staff.

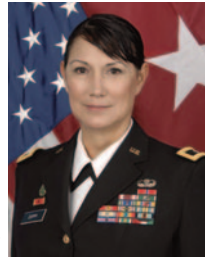
Major General Urrutia-Varhall (ret) currently serves on the United States Strategic Command Strategic Advisory Group (intelligence panel) and is an adjunct research staff member for the Institute for Defense Analyses. Giving back to her alma mater she is a Trustee on the United States Air Force Academy Falcon Foundation. She has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the USAF Academy in 1984, followed by a Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence with a distinguished graduate designation from the Defense Intelligence College. Additionally, she completed a National Defense Fellowship with Georgetown University, and the Air Force Enterprise Leadership Seminar from The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. She was honored to be awarded the Latina Style Lifetime achievement award in September 2019.

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## **DISTINGUISHED CO-CHAIR**

**Brigadier General Irene M. Zoppi**  
U.S. Army Reserve (Ret)

From humble beginnings, the second of five siblings, BG Zoppi was born and raised in Canóvanas, Puerto Rico. Her military career started on 11 December 1985 when she enlisted as a Private First Class (E3), Military Police Corps. In 1988, she received her commission as a Second Lieutenant, Military Intelligence, after graduating from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, as a Distinguished Military Student and Graduate. As a native Spanish-speaker, she was selected and graduated from the renowned Defense Language Institute (DLI), English Language Military Program, English as a Second Language Speakers (ESL), which prepared her for success.



**Brigadier General  
Irene M. Zoppi**  
U.S. Army Reserve  
(Ret)

BG Zoppi is a graduate of numerous prestigious military institutions: the U.S. Army War College, Advanced Joint Professional Military Education, the Command and General Staff College, the Combined Arms Service Staff School, and Airborne School. Hereto, she is also branched qualified in Military Intelligence, Civil Affairs, Public Affairs, and Military Police. She holds a Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Maryland, a Master of Strategic Studies Degree from the U.S. Army War College, a Master of Business Administration, and a Master of Science in Business, Marketing from Johns Hopkins University. BG Zoppi received a Women's Leadership Certificate from Harvard Business School. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages: Spanish, Italian, French, and German from the University of Puerto Rico.

Currently serving as a volunteer as a Member of Directors and Advisory Board in the Prestigious Blue Star Families, Washington, DC, and Member of Board of Trustees, Anne Arundel Community College, Arnold, MD. Formally, Dr. Zoppi was nominated by the Governor of Maryland and appointed by Maryland State Senate to: (1) Maryland State Board of Education, Ethic Committee, Baltimore, MD; (2) Maryland Board of Trustees, Education of the State of Maryland; and (3) Co-Chair and Commissioner for the State of Maryland on the Commission on the Establishment of Maryland's Women in the Military Service Monument and (4) Member of Maryland Workforce Corporation Board, Annapolis, MD.

Her civilian awards, certifications, and decorations include the Latina of the Year, Latina Style Inc (2020), Latina of Influence Award by the Hispanic Lifestyle (2015); Faculty of Excellence Award, Strayer University, 120th Commencement, Baltimore, Maryland (2012); Maryland's Top 100 Women (2009), Kentucky Colonel, Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels (2000). In military heritage, BG Zoppi is a member of the American Revolution's Daughters, #845972, with ancestry to former President Abraham Lincoln.

BG Zoppi is married to Sergeant Thomas J. Zoppi, who serves as a Law Enforcement Officer at, County Police. They have four fully-grown offspring with four grandchildren. Her mantra is simple: "Culture is the heart of an organization. Without a heart, there is no pulse. Therefore, take care of PEOPLE, and MISSION will be innovatively VICTORIOUS."

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## DISTINGUISHED CO-CHAIR

Major General Juan G. Ayala  
U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)



**Major General  
Juan G. Ayala**  
U.S. Marine Corps  
(Ret)

Mr. Ayala retired as a Major General in the United States Marine Corps after 36 years of service. He has a proven record of success leading large, complex organizations. He is currently the Director, Office of Military and Veteran Affairs for the City of San Antonio. In this capacity, he serves as the City's liaison to the military supporting the Mayor, City Council and city departments. He works closely with military and civilian partners to ensure military missions and installations continue to thrive and grow in the region. In addition, he was assigned as an Executive Temporary Loan to the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce from March to August 2020 where he concurrently served as the Chamber's Interim President and CEO. Concurrently, he is serving as the City of San Antonio's Operations Lead for the COVID – 19 Response.

Prior to his retirement, Major General Ayala commanded all 24 Marine Corps installations worldwide and was selected to lead the Department of Defense's 2015 Warrior Games assisting the nation's wounded, ill and injured warriors in their recuperative efforts. He is the former Inspector General of the Marine Corps, and his service includes 4 combat tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, to include a year as the Senior Advisor of a Military Transition Team, embedded with the 1st Iraqi Army Division.

Past assignments include: Coordinated humanitarian assistance programs in 50 countries throughout Africa, Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Baltic's, and the former Soviet Union, served as the Chief of Staff at United States Southern Command leading a staff in the implementation of U.S. national security objectives in 31 countries throughout the Western Hemisphere, to include coordinating detainee operations in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, led a Marine Logistics Group that supported combat operations throughout Iraq, supported humanitarian relief operations after the Haiti Earthquake of 2010, supported Haitian/Cuban refugee operations in Cuba, and coordinated civilian law enforcement counterdrug efforts along the U.S. Southwest Border.

A native of El Paso, Texas, Major General Ayala's military awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with "V" Combat Distinguishing Device, the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal (4 stars), and the Combat Action Ribbon. He is the recipient of the 2007 Excellence in Military Service Award from the League of Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Mr. Ayala currently serves on the Governor of Texas' Advisory Council on Cultural Affairs and is a board member of Visit San Antonio and the National Veterans Outreach (GI Forum). He is the President of the Texas Mayors of Military Communities representing the 16 communities that host military installations in the state of Texas. Since 2016 he has taught Leadership and Ethics as a Visiting Instructor at the Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

An avid cyclist, hiker and reader, Mr. Ayala is married to the former Diane K. Reyes of El Paso, Texas. They have 3 daughters, a son, and 3 grandchildren.

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## DISTINGUISHED CO-CHAIR

Colonel Andres “Naz” Nazario  
U.S. Air Force



**Colonel Andres  
Nazario**  
U.S. Air Force

Col. Andres “Naz” Nazario is the Military Assistant to the Deputy Under-Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Colonel Nazario’s military career began in the U.S. Army, where he served both in active duty and National Guard until 1995. He received his Air Force commission as a graduate of the University of South Florida Air Force ROTC program where he specialized in Latin American studies. Colonel Nazario is a designated Foreign Area Officer fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.

Prior to his current post, Colonel Nazario served as Commander of the 17th Training Wing Goodfellow Air Force Base, a Joint Center of Excellence, and the home for the Department of Defense Fire Academy and multi-service intelligence technical training. The wing is responsible for training more than 14,000 firefighting and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance warriors annually for the United States Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, other government agencies and allied nations. In addition to Goodfellow, Colonel Nazario had responsibility for three geographically-separated units in California, Arizona and Florida. He manages real property, equipment, supplies and contracts in excess of \$1.5 billion and has an annual operating budget exceeding \$288 million.

He has served in a variety of tactical, operational, strategic and leadership positions to include flying squadron, joint Human Intelligence collections, counterterrorism operations, ISR-collection manager, Wing and Air Staff Executive Officer, Director of Intelligence, and Global Exploitation Intelligence Group Command. His deployment experience includes South West Asia, Afghanistan, and extensive travel throughout South America supporting interagency counterterrorism operations and special operations forces.



## CAREERS WITHOUT LIMITS AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

At the Department of Defense, we know that mission success only comes from a diverse group of talented military and civilian personnel who see beyond limitations. They give us strategic advantage in times of conflict and times of peace. In return, we are committed to maximizing potential with opportunities for career development and advancement.

To us, diversity is far more than race and gender, it includes diversity of thought, abilities, backgrounds, languages, cultures and skills. The Department of Defense is committed to growing future leaders to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Support national defense and join a team who values you. To learn more about civilian and military opportunities at the Department of Defense, visit: **USAJOBS.GOV** and **TODAYSMILITARY.COM**.

Appearance of this advertisement does not imply DoD endorsement.

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## PROGRAM AGENDA

- 9:00 – 9:30 am**     **Welcome Remarks:** Robert E. Bard, President & CEO, LATINA *Style*, Inc.  
**Title Sponsor Remarks:** Tracy Dufault, Sr. Vice President, Food Merchandising Operations, Walmart  
**Sponsor Remarks:** Col. Mark A. Elliott, US Army (Ret), Head of Military & Veteran Affairs, JPMorgan Chase  
**Co-Chair Introduction & Remarks:** Maj. Gen. Angie Salinas, USMC (Ret) - CEO, Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas; Maj. Gen. Linda R. Urrutia-Varhall, USAF (Ret); Brig. Gen. Irene Zoppi, USAR; Maj. Gen. Juan Ayala, USMC (Ret); Col. Andres Nazario, USAF.
- 9:30– 10:00 am**     **Session 1 – Powerful Leadership Lessons: Leading by Example**  
**Focus:** The top Latinas in the Military will share lessons learned, experiences gained throughout the years, and ways to overcome challenges. Learn from their guidance, advice, and how your success and leadership can positively impact the community.
- Moderator:** Senior Master Sgt. Sonora Vasquez, U.S. Air Force  
**Speaker:** Maj. Gen. Angie Salinas, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret) - CEO, Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas  
**Speaker:** Maj. Gen. Linda R. Urrutia-Varhall, U.S. Air Force (Ret)
- 10:00 – 10:45 am**     **Session 2 – Nurturing Latina Success**  
**Focus:** Rising to the top is a difficult balancing act. This panel will offer guidance and advice on leadership and self-development. Panelists will discuss what support systems help them continue their pursuit of success.
- Moderator:** Master Sgt. Christian Johnson  
**Speaker:** Command Sgt. Maj. Lirenelli L. Mari-Ciriaco, U.S. Army  
**Speaker:** Lt. Col. Cindy Serrano Roberts, U.S. Air Force  
**Speaker:** Captain Jo-Ann F. Burdian, U.S. Coast Guard  
**Speaker:** Petty Officer 1st Class Lorena Morales, U.S. Navy
- Special Recognition to the 2021 Veteran of the Year**  
Dr. Jennifer M. Peña, U.S. Army (Ret) Chief Medical Officer, NURX
- 10:45– 11:25 am**     **Session 3 – Successfully Transitioning from Active Military Service to Civilian & Corporate Careers**  
**Focus:** The integration of returning active military service into the civilian workplace is a significant initiative for LATINA *Style* and its partners. The cultural gap between military and corporate entities continues to be a significant challenge to our veterans. Learn how Veteran mentorship, sponsorships, and retention programs are essential for corporate success.
- Moderator:** Ken Barrett, Chief Diversity Officer, General Motors & Ret. U.S. Navy Captain  
**Speaker:** Brynt Parmeter, Senior Director of Military programs, Walmart & Ret. U.S. Army Colonel  
**Speaker:** Marisa Bryant, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Advisor Lead, USAA & Ret. U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt.
- 10:25– 11:55 am**     **Session 4 – Highlight of Corporate Initiatives for Veterans - Presented by Walmart**  
**Focus:** Working specifically with Transitioning Military, Reserves, Veterans and Military Spouses, Walmart provides you with the tools and support you need to take the next step in your journey. By assessing your individual needs and connecting you with the right partners, you'll be better positioned to reach your goals - whether that's starting a new career, acquiring new skills or even starting your own business.
- Moderator:** Mark Espinoza, Sr. Director of Public Affairs, Walmart  
**Speaker:** Gustavo Torres, Senior Manager, Walmart  
**Speaker:** Sandra Olivarez, Program Manager, Military Programs, Walmart  
**Speaker:** Dionne Adams, Sam's Club Market Manager, Walmart

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## Virtual Distinguished Military Service Awards

Program (11:55 p.m. – 12:55 p.m.)

LATINA Style presents a recognition program honoring the accomplishments of women serving in the Armed Forces. The awardees will be honored for their service to our country, leadership, accomplishments, and commitment to building a strong community.

### Remarks

Robert E. Bard  
President & CEO  
LATINA Style, Inc.

### Welcome Remarks

Clarence A. Johnson, Director,  
Office of Diversity Management and Equal  
Opportunity Department of Defense

### Presentation of Trailblazer Award

The Honorable Carlos del Toro  
Secretary of the Navy

### Presentation of President's Award

Association of Naval Services Officers  
(ANSO)  
Captain Roy Love - President  
U.S. Navy (Ret)

### Mistress of Ceremony

SMSGt Sonora L. Vasquez  
United States Air Force

### Presentation of the Colors

Armed Forces Color Guard

### Salute to Fallen Heroes

SMSGt Sonora L. Vasquez  
United States Air Force

### Distinguished Military Service Awards Presentation

Command Sergeant Major Llirenelli L. Mari-Ciriaco  
United States Army

Major Lidilia M.A. Garcia  
United States Army

Ms. Deljah Ortiz-Meyer (Civilian)  
United States Army

Lieutenant Junior Grade Ana Mier  
United States Navy

Petty Officer 1st Class Lorena Morales  
United States Navy

Ms. Glenda Padro  
United States Navy

Sergeant Mayra L. Arambulajaimé  
United States Marine Corps

Ms. Geraldina Sandoval (Civilian)  
United States Marine Corps

Captain Jo-Ann F. Burdian  
United States Coast Guard

Petty Officer 2nd Class Laura J. Morales  
United States Coast Guard

Ms. Carla Garcia (Civilian)  
United States Coast Guard

Lieutenant Colonel Cindy Serrano Roberts  
United States Air Force

Senior Master Sergeant Erika Luna  
United States Air Force

Ms. Hope Barber (Civilian)  
U.S. Air Force

Major Sandra A. Wright  
U.S. Army National Guard

Specialist 4 Lesley S. Del Real  
U.S. Space Force

1st Class Cadet Abigail Valadez  
U.S. Coast Guard Academy

### Closing Remarks

Mr. Robert Bard  
President & CEO  
LATINA Style, Inc.

Program Concludes





# ANSO

ASSOCIATION OF NAVAL SERVICES OFFICERS



**Serving Our Sea Services in Recruiting,  
Developing and Retaining Hispanics Leaders**



- Our Mission:**
- Supporting Personal Growth and Development
  - Providing Mentorship and Education
  - Engaging Local Communities

**Advancing our Hispanics Today  
to be Tomorrow's Sea Service Leaders**

**for the  
United States Marine Corps  
United States Navy  
United States Coast Guard**



REVOLUTIONARY WAR 1775-1783 • FRENCH NAVAL WAR 1798-1801 • TRIPOLI 1801-1805 • WAR OF 1812 • FLORIDA INDIAN WARS 1812-1814

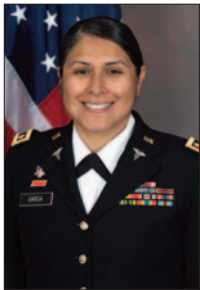
**Join ANSO today at [www.ansomil.org](http://www.ansomil.org)**

## 2021 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients

**Command Sergeant Major Liirenelli Mari-Ciriaco**, enlisted in the Army on June 20, 1995 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In 1994, SGM Mari-Ciriaco graduated from Basic and Advanced Initial Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri as a Technical Engineer Specialist (12T). With 26 years of service, SGM Mari-Ciriaco is the first Latina in senior enlisted ranks who achieved the rank of SGM in Combat Engineers the history of the U.S. Army.

Her military awards and decorations include Bronze Star Medal (2 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (5 OCL), Army Achievement Medal (4 OCL), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Superior Unit Award, Army Reserve Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal (6<sup>th</sup> Award), National Defense Service Medal (2 Bronze Service Star), Armed Force Expeditionary Medal (2 Bronze Service Star), NATO Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2 Bronze Service Star), Global War Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Force Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (Numeral 5), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon ( Numeral 2), NATO Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medal. CSM Mari graduated from the United States Army Sergeant Major Academy (Class 63), and completed the entire NCOPDS, Basic Leaders Course, Advance Leaders Course, and Senior Leaders Course and Self-Structure Development-V (SSD-V).

She completed the Senior Enlisted Joint Professional Military Education (SEJPME), Joint Command, Control and Information Operations School (JC2IOS) from the Joint Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA, Operations Contracting Support Course, Joint Engineer Operations Course, and Facilities Engineer Course. CSM Mari holds Bachelor in Science in Construction Management and Master in Science in Engineer Management from Missouri University Science and Technology in Missouri. She is Certified Professional in Engineering Management from the American Society for Engineering Management. CSM Mari is a recipient of the Bronze de'Fleury Medal. 430661.



**Major Lidilia M.A. Garcia** began her career on August 13, 1998 as a 75H, Personnel Service Specialist. She completed basic and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. As one of the few Latinas, she served in the 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in a variety of human resource positions. She deployed with 1-25 Aviation Regiment, to Taji, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Upon redeployment, MAJ Garcia was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club. She was, then, selected to be a Drill Sergeant and reassigned to the 165th Infantry Brigade, Fort Jackson, South Carolina. In 2009, MAJ Garcia was accepted into the Green to Gold Active-Duty Option Program to become a U.S. Army Officer. She attended Chaminade University of Honolulu; and completed ROTC at the Warrior Battalion, University of Hawaii-Monoa. She commissioned into the Medical Service Corps and serves as a Health Services Human Resources Manager (70F). MAJ Garcia currently serves as an instructor in the department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership at the United States Military Academy. Her career encompasses both enlisted

and officer ranks, which displays her critical assignments in support of national defense.

With dedication and commitment to duty, MAJ Garcia served in key assignments such as the 27th BSB, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, where she served as a Treatment Platoon Leader, Rear Detachment OIC. She was, then, assigned to Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, Fort Meade, Maryland, where she served as a Group Practice Manager, and lead the unit as the Company Commander. Upon completion of Command, MAJ Garcia was assigned to HQ, USAREC, Fort Knox, Kentucky. She served as the Medical Service Corps Program Manager in support of direct accessions across all components influencing military succession planning.

MAJ Garcia's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (7 OLC), Meritorious Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Good Conduct Medal (3 OLC), and Drill Sergeant Identification Badge. MAJ Garcia is a native of Silver Spring, Maryland. As a dual-military family, she is married to SFC (R) Joe A. Garcia. Together they have two sons, Isaac (6) and Peter (4). Her motto is: "Somos Valientes y Podemos" – we are valiant and we can.

## 2021 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients

**Ms. Delilah Ortiz-Meyer** began her service with the Expeditionary Forensic Division, the Forensic Exploitation Directorate (FXD), in July 2010 as an examiner in the Latent Print branch. During her time with FXD, Delilah has served as a Certified Latent Print Examiner (CPLE) in the Global Forensic Exploration Center and mobile expeditionary laboratories completing four deployments overseas and participating subject matter expert exchange with the US partner nations providing capacities briefs and instruction to CID Agents and Armed Forces personnel in proper evidence handling and collection, techniques for capturing legible record prints, and field expedient processing methods. In 2018, Delilah successfully applied for the position of a Quality Compliance Lead in the Office of Quality Initiatives and Training (OQIT). In 2019, shortly after her transition to OQIT, Delilah was selected to be the Quality Manager for the DFSC and now oversees the quality management system in support of continued accreditation, proficiency testing and technical training programs and administration of mandated and sustainment training for the Defense Forensic Science Center (DFSC), which includes the US Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL) and the Forensic Directorate (FXD).



Prior to joining the FXD, Delilah was a member of the Cold Case Investigation Team at The Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science in West Haven, CT. There she assisted investigators by identifying alternative avenues for inquiry and assisted with the presentations of results and reports for investigating agencies.

Delilah holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry with a Minor in Anthropology from Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, FL), a certificate in Crime Science Technology from St. Petersburg College and a Master of Science degree in Forensic Science (Criminalistics) from the University of New Haven in West Haven, Connecticut. She has co-authored publication in forensic science references and has been an invited speaker at local schools and represented the DFSC at joint military entities, federal and partner nation law enforcement agencies. She is a member of the International Association for Identification (AIA) and a volunteer member of the DFSC Diversity Equity and Inclusion Working Group.



**Lieutenant Junior Grade Ana Mier**, is a native of Gwaynabo, Puerto Rico, attended Academia San Jose high school in her hometown and completed Summer Seminar at the United States Naval Academy in 2014, solidifying her decision to apply to the prestigious undergraduate program.

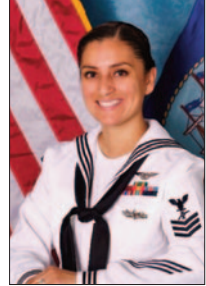
Lieutenant Junior Grade Ana P. Mier began her naval career in 2015 at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. While there, Lieutenant Junior Grade Mier was a two-time All-American with the Intercollegiate Sailing Team, was an active member of the Latin American Midshipman Club, and conducted four outreach visits to Puerto Rico to bring awareness to the many opportunities the USNA offered, doing her part to inspire other Puerto Rican citizens to explore the path of service she took. Lieutenant Junior Grade Mier graduated near the top of her class with honors, holding a GPA of 3.85 as a Political Science Major and earned her commission upon graduation in May 2019.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Mier's first assignment was aboard the USS MICHAEL MURPHY (DDG 112) where she served as the STRIKE Officer, Public Affairs Officer, Explosive Safety Officer, and Command Resiliency Team Member. While onboard USS MICHAEL MURPHY, she deployed to Commander, FIFTH Fleet, Commander, SEVENTH Fleet areas of responsibility and Western Pacific, in support of the Carl Vinson Carrier Strike Group operating as a force to maintain freedom of navigation in international waters and ensuring the United States' stance in the Great Power. During her tour, LTJG Mier completed several advanced qualifications including Anti-Terrorism Tactical Watch Officer, Liaison Officer for the Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure Team, and Engagement Control Officer for Tomahawk Strike scenarios. In addition to her qualifications, as the Public Affairs Officer, LTJG Mier submitted 15 press releases highlighting and celebrating the many accomplishments of USS MICHAEL MURPHY Sailors. LTJG Mier guaranteed the success of three ammunition onloads prior to deployment as the Explosive Safety Officer.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Mier was specifically requested to remain onboard USS MICHAEL MURPHY (DDG 112) and report as the Fire Control Officer in May 2022.

## 2021 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients

**Petty Officer 1st Class Lorena Morales** was born on 28 February, 1989 in Oceanside, California. She graduated from Rancho Buena Vista High School in Vista, California in 2007. LN1 Morales enlisted in the Navy on 3 March, 2008 and upon completion of recruit training attended follow-on skills training at Avionics Electronics Technician "A" School in Pensacola, Florida. Immediately after "A" School, she moved on to "C" School in San Diego, CA, where she received training for Forward Looking InfraRed.



In January of 2009, she reported for duty to NAS Lemoore, California where she served as a Consolidated Automated Support System Technician for Fleet Readiness Center West. Following her tour in Lemoore, she reported to Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light 43 in San Diego, CA where she completed a Western Pacific Deployment. While at Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 41, she quickly saw an opportunity to cross-rate to the Legalman rating and took it. She went on temporary orders to Region Legal Service Office Southwest to receive on the job training and learn more about the rate while earning her Associates Degree in Human Biology. She was approved for conversion to Legalman on September 2017. She attended Naval Justice School from June to December 2018 and graduated from Roger Williams University with Honors. While on shore duty, LN1 Morales volunteered to fill a gapped billet for Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN as they deployed to the Arabian Gulf. Her sustained superior performance and support to the mission while deployed with the USS NIMITZ and Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN for eight months earned her a Navy Achievement Medal and the Warrior of the Week Award, presented by Rear Admiral James Kirk. LN1 Morales was recognized as the Region Legal Service Office Southwest Sailor of the Year for 2020. Additionally, LN1 Morales has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4th award), Good Conduct Medal (3rd award), National Defense Service medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (2nd Award), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2nd Award), and the Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon.



**Ms. Glenda Padro** was born in Cojutepeque, El Salvador and immigrated to the United States at the age of five, where she grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area. Upon graduating high school, she started off her logistic career in 1999 at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) working for a bonded carrier supporting the Cargo Operations at SFO. In 2001, she went on to work for an international freight forwarder, JAS Forwarding Worldwide Inc., in San Francisco, CA.

Ms. Padro was motivated to join the United States Army Reserves after the events of 9/11. After basic training and advanced individual training, she was mobilized with the 2nd Medical Brigade in 2003 to perform duties as a 25B, Information Technology Specialist, for the US Army in Bagdad, Iraq.

She returned from Iraq and relocated to the Los Angeles area after her US Army active duty assignment to continue her employment with JAS Forwarding Worldwide Inc. as an Import/Export Manager. She was selected to expand the Los Angeles JAS operation to the San Diego area in 2007. She established the JAS San Diego Branch operations, which facilitated US-Mexico cargo border shipment coordination.

After 14+ years in the private sector, she transitioned to federal service in 2014 as a GS-7, Supply Technician for NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center, Advanced Traceability and Control (ATAC) Operations at North Island in Coronado, CA. She quickly promoted to the GS-9/11, supervisory position of a Supply Systems Analyst, and then on to the ATAC Deputy, GS-12, position in 2018. Ms. Padro currently serves as the Production Support Supervisor in Code 500 and is fulfilling her professional goal of expanding her supply knowledge base and expertise of Code 500 operations.

Ms. Padro has earned two associate degrees from Southwestern College in Accounting and History and is scheduled to begin work on a Bachelor of Science in Logistics and Supply Chain Management in the Spring semester of 2022.

## 2021 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients

**Sergeant Mayra L. Arambulajaime** has continuously invested time in off-duty education and professional military education. From July 2020 to October 2020, Sergeant Arambulajaime balanced her duties as an 0111 (Administrator) with her desire to invest time in a college degree, completing four college courses worth a total of (13) college credits toward her future degree. She also attended and successfully graduated from her Intermediate Administrative Course from August of 2020 to October 2020. Immediately following the 2020 holiday season, Sergeant Arambulajaime attended Drill Instructor School 2-21 on Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina from January 2021 to March 2021. During those 12 weeks of intense training, Sgt Arambulajaime again proved her commitment to excellence and exceptional team spirit by graduating as the Class Commander and the Honor Graduate for her Drill Instructor School class. Further demonstrating her prowess, Sergeant Arambulajaime was recognized as the fittest Marine her Drill Instructor School Class, scoring a total of 600 point out of a possible 600 points. Thus displaying the highest physical and combat fitness in the class. Her efforts during Drill Instructor School highlighted her in a documentary that focused on the training of Marines into Drill Instructors on Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, displaying passion, commitment, and her eagerness to give back to the Corps and the community.



Upon checking into Recruit Training Regiment, Fourth Recruit Training Battalion, Company "N", Sergeant Arambulajaime immediately started working as a Drill Instructor with Series 4020, Platoon 4021. After a few short weeks, she was selected to attend a Martial Arts Instructor Course. While attending the Martial Arts Instructor Course she consistently outpaced her fellow students' performance. While focusing her time to developed them and lead them in such a physically and mentally demanding course. Her efforts were once again recognized by the Instructor Cadre and Students when she was recognized as the Honor Graduate for her class. She achieved academic distinction by achieving the highest grade point average of her class. Sergeant Arambulajaime is currently working as a Drill Instructor with Series 4038, Platoon 4039.



**Mrs. Geraldina Sandoval** was born in San Salvador, El Salvador on August 12, 1978. She is happily married to Chief Shannon Brosnan. She enlisted into the United States Army on February 1, 2007 and attended basic training at Fort Jackson, SC.

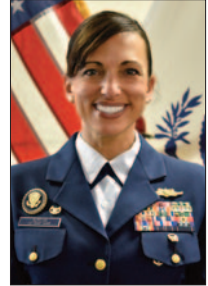
Upon completion of Petroleum Vehicle Operator's course (PVOC) in Fort Leonard Wood, MO, she was assigned to 240th Quartermaster Battalion at Fort Lee, VA from September 2007 to March 2010. While there, she worked in the Headquarters and Headquarters Company Orderly Room as Human Resources Specialist. From March 2010 to March 2011, Mrs. Sandoval's was deployed to Iraq with the 240th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (240TH CSSB). While there she completed a one year deployment tour in Al Asad, Iraq, working closely with Base Command Group and being in charge of the base Official Mail Operations. She was also responsible for the 240th CSSB Rest and Relaxation Program and the Unit's administrative department.

From March 2011 to August 2012, Mrs. Sandoval's next assignment was to the 49th Group Mail Room/Official Mail, Fort Lee, VA. She was in charge of overseeing the movement of personal mail for Soldiers assignment to 49th Group and all the official mail for 530th Battalion and 49th Group. She separated from active duty on August 1st, 2012 with an honorable discharge. From August 2012 to present she has volunteered over 500 hours as a Caseworker for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society in Guam where she was going to school full time, in 2018 – 2020 she worked as a Customer Support Service Rep from Naval Hospital Sigonella in which job responsibilities included parts/items procurement management in logistics, and currently in Okinawa works with the III MEF as the Sponsorship Coordinator.

Mrs. Sandoval has been awarded (2) Army Commendation Medal (2) Army Achievement Medal (1) Army Good Conduct Medal (1) National Defense Service Medal (1) Global War On Terrorism Service Medal (1) Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star. Mrs. Sandoval has received a Baccalaureate of Science degree in Business from University of Maryland University College.

## 2021 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients

Captain Jo-Ann F. Burdian serves as Commander of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Miami, in Miami, Florida, overseeing and directing all Coast Guard missions along 182 miles of Florida coastline, including Port Miami, the Miami River, Port Everglades, and the Port of Palm Beach. She serves as Captain of the Port, Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator, and Federal on Scene Coordinator for the over 250,000 square miles that constitute Sector Miami's area of responsibility.



Captain Burdian is a Coast Guard Permanent Cutterman and Honorary Chief whose previous operational assignments include Chief of Response at Sector Puget Sound in Seattle, Washington, Commanding Officer of USCGC Key Biscayne in St. Petersburg, Florida, and Executive Officer of USCGC Attu in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Captain Burdian also served as Coast Guard Liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she managed all Service engagements with Members of Congress, advised senior Coast Guard leaders on all matters related to the House of Representatives, and advocated for multi-billion dollar acquisition programs and advancing legislation. In addition, she stood as the Senior Duty Officer in the White House Situation Room.

Captain Burdian grew up in Queens, New York and Sunrise, Florida. She graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Government. She also holds a Master's in Public Administration from Florida State University. Her military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, and Coast Guard Achievement Medal. Captain Burdian is married to Captain Stephen Burdian of Briarcliff, New York. They have three handsome sons – Jack, Sean, and James.



**Petty Officer 2nd Class Laura J. Morales** reported aboard Sector Buffalo in July 2019 where she currently serves as a Situation Unit Controller in the Command Center. As a Situation Unit Watch stander she is responsible for tracking Blue Forces, maintaining situational awareness and monitoring the common operating picture for Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the Saint Lawrence Seaway, Niagara River and the Erie Canal. Sector Buffalo encompasses an area of 570 miles and works closely with Canadian Coast Guard and several other Government Agencies.

A native of Rutherford, New Jersey and first generation born to Colombian parents, she is a 2015 graduate of the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is the first in her family to graduate from a University and join the military. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Health Communications and Public Health and is pursuing a Master of Psychology in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Southern New Hampshire University.

Petty Officer Morales's assignments include: Arctic Shield administrative support at District Seventeen in Juneau, Alaska; Administrative and Personnel support at District Five Planning and Force Readiness Division in Portsmouth, VA; Administrative and Personnel support at Sector Maryland-NCR in Baltimore, MD; Administrative and Personnel support at Sector North Carolina in Fort Macon, North Carolina; Intel Administrative support at TRACEN Yorktown in Yorktown, VA; and Deck Watch on board USCGC KINGFISHER (WPB 87). From 2015-2017, Petty Officer Morales served as a Spanish Translator at Johns Hopkins Community Physicians as well as the Assistant Director of Community Outreach for American Heart Association providing education on heart health and dietary nutrition to local communities.

Petty Officer Morales's personal awards include Commandant's Letter of Commendation Ribbons, CG Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, Active Duty and Reserve Good Conduct Medal, and Sea Service Medal.

## 2021 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients

**Ms. Carla Garcia** serves as the Chief of Administration and External Affairs Branch at Force Readiness Command. In her current capacity, she is responsible for all personnel support and administrative functions for the FORCECOM organization. Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Carla moved to Washington, DC in August 2010 to work for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). While there, she held several administrative positions advising management of the full-cycle of human resources management, to include recruitment sources and performance management.



As the first generation to attend college, Carla Garcia graduated in June 2010 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration Management from the Florida International University. While pursuing her undergraduate degree in 2008, she was accepted in the Hispanics Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Internship Program and selected to participate in two - four month internships with USAID.

Prior to her assignment at Force Readiness Command in January 2020, Carla was the Supervisory Legal Administrative Specialist at the Hampton VA Medical Center (HVAMC) where she was responsible for the management, design, direction and supervision of the Office of Care in the Community program. Other career highlights include being the Compliance and Business Integrity Officer for the HVAMC; providing guidance and counsel for incorporating compliance related activities into the operational areas of the hospital. Carla is proud to be married to an Active Duty US Navy military member and has a four-year old son.

**Lieutenant Colonel Cindy Serrano Roberts** is the Chief, Force Support Inspections, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. He is responsible for the operational readiness and conducting unit effectiveness inspections on thirteen wings and 3 NAFs throughout PACAF. Colonel Serrano Roberts received her commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 2006.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations from the University of South Alabama; a Master of Human Relations from The University of Oklahoma. She has worked all elements of legacy Services activities at base level and managed Majcom and HAF personnel programs. Major Roberts also served as the Garrison Deputy Contracting Officer at a deployed location in support of the Army.

### EDUCATION

- 2006 Bachelor of Science in Public Relations, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL
- 2006 Air and Space Basic Course, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2007 Services 101 Technical School, Wright Patterson AFB, OH
- 2009 Theories and Principles of Adult Education, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2010 Master of Science in Human Relations, The University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
- 2011 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2012 Services Flight Commander Course, Eaker Center, Maxwell AFB, AL
- 2013 Operations Officer Course, Eaker Center, Maxwell AFB AL
- 2018 Air Command and Staff College (by correspondence)
- 2020 Cornell Certificate, "Women in Executive Leadership"
- 2020 Cornell Certificate, "Diversity & Inclusion"

### MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

- Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters
- Air Force Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters
- Air Force Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster
- Army Achievement Medal
- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device
- Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

## 2021 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients

**Senior Master Sergeant Erika Luna** is a Lead Weapon Systems Support Manager assigned to the Materiel Management Branch, Logistics Readiness Division, Directorate of Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. She is responsible for providing logistical support to 326 assigned aircraft across fourteen weapon systems located at nine installations. Additionally, Sergeant Luna oversees the management of 413 million dollars in Readiness Spares Packages, ensuring the availability of eighteen thousand critical aircraft parts. Sergeant Luna evaluates key performance indicators assessing logistical readiness capabilities to mitigate supply issues affecting the Command in executing assigned missions.



Sergeant Luna hails from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and graduated from Northwest Classen High School in 2001. She entered the Air Force in March 2003 and completed Supply Management Technical Training in July 2003 as a distinguished graduate. Sergeant Luna has served in various sections within the Materiel Management career field throughout seven duty assignment locations and deployments to FOB Falcon, Iraq, Camp Taji, Iraq, and Al Udeid AB, Qatar. Prior to her current position, she served in a competitively selective logistics development program as a Materiel Management Enlisted Career Broadener assigned to the 448th Supply Chain Management Wing, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

Sergeant Luna's military and professional education include Bachelor of Arts in Supply Chain Management, Airman Leadership School, Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Course, Senior Joint Enlisted Professional Military Education Course, and Air Force Logistics Professional Development Program Supply Chain certifications. Her military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one first oak leaf cluster, Army Commendation Medal, and Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster.



**Ms. Hope Barber** is a Supervisory Career Field Administrator on the Financial Management (FM) Career Field Team (CFT), Talent Management Division, Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center, JBSA Randolph, TX.

Mrs. Barber is currently the force renewal team lead serving the Air Force financial management enterprise through innovative recruitment and retention strategies to achieve our Human Capital and mission critical occupation objectives. Ms. Barber works closely with financial management senior leadership to support AF corporate force renewal processes and compliance with law and AF policy objectives. In her previous assignment, Mrs. Barber led the FM CFT Force Sustainment team and oversaw administrative efforts in support of over 8K civilians, supervisors and leaders in the FM career field.

Mrs. Barber began her federal career in 2013 at Ramstein AB, Germany as a Budget Analyst for the 603d Air Operations Center (AOC). She held positions of increased responsibility with both the Dept of the Air Force and Dept of the Army. Prior to her current position, she served as a Management Analyst in the Plans, Analysis & Integration Office, US Army Garrison, Installation Management Command, Fort Riley, KS. There she played a critical role during COVID-19 operations and successfully developed a matrix, which informed Soldiers, Families, and Civilians of service impacts during COVID mitigation.

Mrs. Barber was born in Merced, CA and grew up in Wichita Falls, TX. Mrs. Barber is a second generation Mexican-American and the first in her family to serve as a civilian in the federal service. Mrs. Barber is married to MSgt (ret.) Daniel Barber for twenty years and they have three children.



## 2021 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients

**Major Sandra A. Wright** is an Engineer Officer assigned to the 29TH Infantry Division and forward deployed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the Officer-in-Charge for all engineer projects in the country. She is 40 years old and was born in Washington, DC on 10 December 1980. She attended Winston Churchill High School, graduating as member of the Technical Honors Society in May 1998. She played JV (1 year) and Varsity (2 years) football, tennis (2 years), cross country (2 years), soccer (4 years), basketball (4 years), and gymnastics (4 years). She served as the Volunteer Coordinator for Young Women and Youth Camp Director in 1997-1998 for her church.



After graduating with an Electrical Engineering Degree, she has been working as a government contractor (2004-2015) and federal employee (2015-present) as an electrical engineer, specializing in radio frequency communications and electromagnetic compatibility with the Department of Defense, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). She has published 20+ information and working papers to the International Civil Aviation Organization; reports on Korean Naval Ships Readiness and Radio Interference Issues; Tactical Communication System (known as Link-16) papers for Japan, Taiwan, and Italy; and Global Positioning System (GPS L5) testing and tutorial papers. In 2009, she returned to the National Guard as an Officer Candidate School Candidate, commissioning in 2010, branching in the Corps of Engineers and then later completing Captain's Career Course in Military Police. She has served as a Platoon Leader, Executive Officer, 244TH Vertical Engineering Company Commander, and 29TH Division Engineer Operations Officer within the Corps of Engineers, then worked as an Operations Officer in the State G-3 Office, followed by being a Policy Officer in the State G-5 Office. She serves as the Executive Board Treasurer and Webmaster for Hispanics in Government, graduated from FAA's Professional Women Controllers' Mentoring Program, mentors a female soccer player at The Citadel, and was selected for the Army National Guard Endurance Race Team. She is currently working towards a Master's Degree in Legislative Affairs to become a military liaison on Capitol Hill following her work at the 2021 Inauguration.

Her military awards include the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Commendation Medals, Army Reserve Component Achievement Award (for leading construction project building schools in El Salvador), Maryland State Service Awards, DC Service Awards (for supporting multiple Presidential Inaugurations), Maryland Army National Guard Association Company Grade Officer of the Year (2016), and Norwegian Foot March Badge.

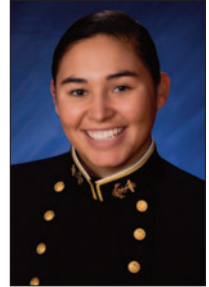


**Specialist 4 Lesley S. Del Real** is a Target Analyst & Reporter, 17th Intelligence Squadron, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. She provides expert guidance to a 13-Airmen section charged with the timely production and dissemination of detailed, tailored, and actionable non-kinetic targeting intelligence to five Air Operations Centers, nine Combatant Commands, and multiple national-level partners. Her efforts directly support global full-spectrum military operations. Additionally, Spc4 Del Real serves as a squadron Initial Training Instructor, where she is responsible for preparing analysts from seventeen different Air Force Specialty Codes to function within the Air Force Targeting Enterprise.

Specialist Del Real is from Salinas, California. She enlisted in the Air Force as a Fusion Analyst in July 2017 and completed technical training in December 2017. She was selected for transfer from the Air Force to the Space Force in February 2021

## 2021 Distinguished Military Service Award Recipients

**1st Class Cadet Abigail Valadez** has made a large positive impact at the United States Coast Guard Academy. In her three years at USCGA, she has managed hundreds of thousands of dollars in Coast Guard resources, has been a leader on the rugby field and in the pool, and helped pioneer the first virtual Academy Introductory Mission (AIM) program.



1/c Valadez began her military career at the New Mexico Military Institute. She earned Battalion Commander for Army JROTC unit and oversaw the military training of four-hundred high school students. Despite the challenge of going to a prestigious military academy, she knew that the Coast Guard Academy was the place that could develop her into the leader that she aspired to be. Throughout her time here, she has been a division officer on the US Coast Guard Cutter EAGLE, directly impacting the qualification and training of five 3/c cadets, resulting in fifteen new Coast Guard Qualifications. As a 2/c cadet, she took on the role of helping manage large supply orders for the Academy and oversaw a team of nine cadets ranging from 4/c-2/c to help inventory, issue, and maintain these Coast Guard resources. As a member of Battalion Staff, 1/c Valadez coordinated, created a schedule for, and ran a summer training program for 800 high school juniors. This involved working with and

briefing Coast Guard officers ranging from Lieutenant to Admiral as well as managing a team of forty-five underclass cadets. Over the past three years, she has earned five Coast Guard Qualifications: Basic Damage Control, Small Boat Crew Member, Quarter Master of the Watch, Helm & Lookout, Communications. As a member of several CGA Admissions Programs, she has helped pioneer the first virtual AIM program as well as the first hybrid virtual/in-person program. AIM is the largest recruiting tool for Coast Guard offices, and by contributing to this effort she has helped reach over 1000 potential CGA cadets. As a result, she was awarded the meritorious team commendation ribbon. In addition, she uses free time to participate in admissions events during the school year, especially those that target Hispanic and other minority students.

Her servant leadership has reached many of her peers. She puts her teams needs before her own and always acknowledges the most important resource of the Coast Guard, the people. 1/c Valadez embodies the qualities that are at the core of the Coast Guard's missions and is an inclusive leader that works to better the Coast Guard.

A promotional banner for the "Southwest/West Region" event, part of the "LATINAStyle Business LIVE" series. The banner is blue and features the "PRESENTED BY Nationwide" logo. The event is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021. The banner displays a grid of city images with labels for California (Los Angeles, San Diego, San Jose, San Francisco), New Mexico (Albuquerque), Texas (San Antonio, Houston, Dallas), and Arizona (Tucson, Phoenix). Denver and Colorado are also listed. The "LATINAStyle Business LIVE" logo is in the top left corner.

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## *2021 Trailblazer Award Recipient*

### **The Honorable Carlos del Toro, Secretary of the Navy**

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro was sworn in as the 78th Secretary of the Navy August 9, 2021. As Secretary, he is responsible for over 900,000 Sailors, Marines, reservists, and civilian personnel and an annual budget exceeding \$210 Billion. His priorities include securing the training and equipment successful naval operations demand and addressing the most pressing challenges confronting the US Navy and Marine Corps – China's naval ambitions, climate instability, Covid's ongoing impact, and strengthening a naval culture of inclusiveness and respect.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Del Toro immigrated to the U.S. with his family as refugees in 1962. Raised in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City, he attended public schools and received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering. Secretary Del Toro was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer upon his graduation in 1983.



**The Honorable  
Carlos del Toro**

His 22-year naval career included a series of critical appointments and numerous tours of duty at sea – including First Commanding Officer of the guided missile destroyer USS Bulkeley (DDG 84); Senior Executive Assistant to the Director for Program Analysis and Evaluation in the Office of the Secretary of Defense; and Special Assistant to the Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget – where he helped manage the budgets of DOD, the U.S. Department of State, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the Peace Corps.

After retiring at the rank of Commander, Secretary Del Toro founded SBG Technology Solutions, Inc. in 2004. As its CEO and President, he supported defense programs across a host of immediate and long-term Department of Navy issue areas, including shipbuilding, AI, cybersecurity, acquisition programs, space systems, health, and training.

He holds a Masters in National Security Studies from the Naval War College, a Masters in Space Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Masters in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

Secretary Del Toro and his wife have four children and a granddaughter.

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

## *2021 President's Award Recipient*

### **Association of Naval Services Officers**

Capt. Roy Love was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to the U.S. in 1983. In 1988 he graduated from Townsend Harris HS in N.Y. Following HS, Love enlisted in the U.S. Navy and attended the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST) Program in San Diego, California, in 1989. In 1993, he graduated from the State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College, earning a bachelor's degree in Marine Transportation/Business Administration, and received his naval commission via ROTC.

His sea duty assignments are numerous, having served over 12 years at sea. He attended the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, earning a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies in 2008. He deployed to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom on an Individual Assignment in support of the ARMY 304th Sustainment Brigade, managing and distributing fuel across all of Iraq to support U.S. and allied forces.



**Captain Roy Love**  
**President of ANSO**  
**U.S. Navy (Ret)**

CAPT Love reported as Commanding Officer of USS BOONE (FFG 28) in June 2010, where he led the ship in winning the Battle Efficiency award in 2011. He completed his tour on BOONE in December 2011 and assumed Command of Afloat Training Group Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida. CAPT Love served in the Joint Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff, as Joint Division Chief for PACOM, NORTHCOM, and SOUTHCOM, under the Deputy Director for Regional Operations (J35) from 2014-2016. In August 2016, he assumed command of Naval Base San Diego (NBSD), the second-largest Naval Base in the U.S. CAPT Love culminated his tour as Commanding Officer of NBSD in July 2019, after leading the base in winning the Commander in Chief Installation Excellence Award.

His final assignment in the U.S. Navy was as Executive Assistant to Commander Navy Installations Command, who leads 10 Navy Regions and 70 Naval Installations worldwide, with over 50,000 employees and over \$200 Billion in assets, and a \$10B annual operating budget. Captain Love retired from the U.S. Navy in August 2021, after 29 years on active duty. He is currently serving as President of the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO) and is the Founder and CEO of The Road Eagle LLC ([www.theroadeagle.com](http://www.theroadeagle.com)) the first Bi-Lingual online Motorcycle Touring Magazine and Blog, made by Latinos, for Latinos and friends. CAPT Love's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, and various U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard unit and service awards.

24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**LATINA** *Style* 50  
*Awards and Diversity Leaders Conference*

*Join the most accomplished  
Latinas in our country at the  
premiere empowerment  
conference for Latina corporate,  
business, civic and political  
leaders in the Nation.*



*“A celebration of Corporate Excellence & Latina Achievement”  
Washington, D.C. - February 2022*

# 18<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL LATINA *Symposium*

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Title Sponsor



A photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., featuring its iconic dome and neoclassical architecture under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The building is the central focus of the image.

**19<sup>th</sup>** NATIONAL  
**LATINA** Symposium

*Distinguished Military Service Awards*

*Save  
the date*

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

[www.nls.latinastyle.com](http://www.nls.latinastyle.com)