



## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Jason Simpson, City Manager

**Prepared by:** Candice Alvarez, MMC, City Clerk

**Date:** November 12, 2024

**Subject:** Recognition of Manuel Acuna for Selection to Participate in the Honor Flight Program

### **Recommendation**

Present a Certificate of Recognition.

### **Background**

The Honor Flight program was founded with the mission of honoring our nation's veterans by providing them the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., and reflect on the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice. Established by Jeff Miller and Earl Morse, the Honor Flight Network initially focused on World War II veterans but has since expanded to include veterans from the Korean and Vietnam War eras, as well as critically ill veterans from any era.

Since its inception, the Honor Flight Network has transported over 300,000 veterans to Washington, D.C., and currently transports approximately 22,500 veterans annually. The program allows veterans to share this momentous occasion with comrades, reflect on their experiences, remember the fallen, and be honored by the public. The entire trip is provided free of charge to veterans and is funded by generous donations.

This year, Manuel Acuna, a veteran who served as Sgt. Manuel Acuna, Jr. in the U.S. Army's 199th Light Infantry Brigade, was selected as one of 95 veterans to participate in this esteemed program. Sgt. Acuna served in Vietnam from May 2, 1968, to May 1, 1969, and is a Purple Heart Recipient. His selection to the Honor Flight is a recognition of his service, sacrifice, and continued commitment to the values of this nation.

## Certificate of Recognition

### **Discussion**

Participation in the Honor Flight trip is a profound and emotional experience for veterans. It provides them with the opportunity to visit memorials such as the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and others built to commemorate their military service and the sacrifices of their comrades. Veterans also have the chance to share stories with fellow veterans, honor those who did not return, and receive the appreciation of a grateful nation.

Manuel Acuna's selection is not only an honor for him but also a point of pride for our community, as his service represents the highest ideals of sacrifice, patriotism, and duty. As a city, we recognize and thank Manuel for his bravery, dedication, and commitment to our country. This recognition also highlights the importance of supporting programs like Honor Flight that ensure veterans receive the honor and appreciation they deserve.

### **Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recognition.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - Certificate

Office