



## Felix Garcia III National Senior Vice Commander

Felix Garcia served in the United States Marine Corps, deploying to Iraq with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division in August and November 2004.

He was wounded while participating in search and destroy missions in Al Karmah and Fallujah during Operations Phantom Fury and Iraq Freedom II and was awarded three Purple Hearts and a Navy/Marine Commendation Medal with Combat "V." Medically retired, he lives in Texas with his wife, Christina, and they have three children.



After leaving the Marines, he joined MOPH Chapter 493 in Vista, CA in 2005, becoming Senior Vice Commander even though a newcomer. After a short stay at Chapter 701 in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, where he impressed past National Commander Joe Hems and was nominated but didn't serve as Chapter Commander, he went to Florida where he founded and led Chapter 808 in Palm Coast. While commanding the Florida Chapter, its membership accomplished one of their most significant acts – the design and installation of a Purple Heart Monument in Hero's Park in Palm Coast. The popular monument has a circular walkway, with bricks engraved with veterans' names and data.

Garcia then moved to Texas and joined Chapter 723 in 2012, his current chapter, becoming Senior Vice Commander and then Commander for three terms. He hit the deck running and began to recruit younger Iraq and Afghanistan Purple Heart recipients to join the ranks of the greatest war fighters – WWII, Korean and Vietnam War members.

He has helped all his Chapters become compliant with the IRS – some had lapsed in filing documentation and lost their non-profit status. Concentrated on membership issues - merging weaker chapters with stronger chapters to end up with fewer but more robust units and encouraging older members to impart their wisdom and experience to younger members and not just sit on the sidelines and carp about issues. He has reached out to DAV, VFW, and American Legion fellow commanders to improve cooperative efforts and better support Texan veterans, and initiated several fundraising efforts.

