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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-990

WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE
1632 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-1188

DISTRICT OFFICE
330 HERNAN CORTEZ AVENUE
SUITE 300
HAGATNA, GUAM 96910
(671) 475-6453
<https://sannicolas.house.gov>

December 13, 2020

President-Elect Joe Biden
Suite 38038
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20270

Dear President-Elect Joe Biden:

In continuing with our desire to make meaningful recommendations for your Administration's consideration, please accept this correspondence.

For too many years we have seen a consistent erosion of veteran confidence in the ability to receive a level of care and support commensurate with their sacrifice while serving in our Armed Services. Part of this could be attributed to the heightened demands of constant conflicts, and part of this could be attributed to the legacy of disconnect in commitment and engagement from active to veteran status. It is rightly anticipated that your administration will bring the right people together to address this.


In this spirit, it is my honor to recommend for your consideration for Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Brigadier General (Ret.) Roderick Leon Guerrero. General Leon Guerrero is a son of Guam who honorably commanded our National Guard as Adjutant General. His service, experience, and achievements are illustrative of a fine career rooted in collaboration, problem solving, and results.

An appointment of General Leon Guerrero to this position will bring very unique perspective to the goal of addressing veteran concerns. From Guam we have the furthest of American geographies that create unique challenges shared in many veteran communities throughout rural America. As a career National Guardsman, the General also brings new perspective and attention to the circumstances of veteran Guard soldiers many of whom were called and continue to be called to actively serve in our most dangerous mission areas.

Addressing rural veterans and National Guard veterans will, in my humble opinion, fill a deep and broad gap that disproportionately constitutes the bulk of modern veteran frustrations. General Leon Guerrero's service, achievements, background, upbringing, and dedication to duty make him a most qualified candidate for this critical mission.

We thank you sincerely for weighing the merits of this advisory and optimistically await your decision.

Much Respect,


Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member of Congress, Guam

Attachment: (1)

BRIGADIER GENERAL RODERICK R. LEON GUERRERO

Retired - January 31, 2019

Brigadier General Roderick R. Leon Guerrero served as the 11th Adjutant General for the Guam National Guard and the Director of Military Affairs. In this capacity, he served as an advisor to the Governor of Guam on military affairs. He was responsible for ensuring more than 1,500 Army and Air Guardsmen were accessible, capable and ready to deploy on island to respond to emergencies and provide combat ready Soldiers and Airmen to the United States Army and Air Force. Prior to his assignment, Brigadier General served as the Chief of Joint Staff for the Guam Army and Air National Guard.



Brigadier General Leon Guerrero's military career began in 1985 as a Private First Class where he went to Basic Training and attended the Combat Medic Advanced Individual Training. Brigadier General Leon Guerrero was commissioned in 1988 through the Reserve Officer Training Corp program at the University of Guam. He served in various command and staff positions to include Intelligence Officer, Executive Officer for a Headquarters Company and was then given command of the 731st Military Police Company. After this command, Brigadier General Leon Guerrero served in various positions from 1991 to 2007 that included Personnel Officer, G1; Assistant Professor of Military Science University of Guam Army ROTC; Recruiting and Retention Manager; Deputy G3, Guam Army National Guard; Commander, 94th Civil Support Team; and J3, Guam National Guard.

From 2007-2008, Brigadier General Leon Guerrero deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan as the J1, 203rd Afghan Regional Security Command – East operating out of Forward Operating Base Lightning. After his deployment, Brigadier General Leon Guerrero returned to Guam and served concurrently as the Commander, 105th Troop Command and as the J1, Guam National Guard from May 2008 to July 2009. In July of 2009, he relinquished command of the 105th Troop Command and remained the J1, Guam National Guard until April 2014. Brigadier General Leon Guerrero was then selected as Chief of Joint Staff for the Guam National Guard and served in this position from April 2014 until March 2015. Brigadier General Leon Guerrero assumed the duties and responsibilities as the 11th Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard in March 2015 and retired in January 2019.

MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EDUCATION

- 1986 Basic Training
- 1986 Combat Medic Training
- 1987 Airborne Course
- 1989 Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, University of Guam
- 1991 Military Police Office Basic Course, Fort McClellan, Alabama
- 1996 Adjutant General Officer Advanced Course, Fort Jackson, South Carolina
- 2005 Command and General Staff Officer Course, by correspondence
- 2007 Military Transition Team Training
- 2008 Casualty Notification Training
- 2011 Master's Degree in Strategic Studies, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
- 2017 General Officer Legal Orientation Course, University of Virginia, Charlottesville Virginia
- 2018 Fellow, General and Flag Officers Homeland Security Executive Seminar, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.
- 2018 Army Strategic Education Program – Basic Course, Tyson, Virginia

ASSIGNMENTS

- May 88 - Jul 89 Intelligence Officer S-2, HHC, 1st BN 294th INF (Light), Barrigada, Guam
- Jul 89 - Apr 90 Executive Officer, HHC, 1st BN 294th INF (Light), Barrigada, Guam
- Apr 90 - Dec 90 Company Commander, 731st Military Police Company, Barrigada, Guam
- Dec 90 - Jul 91 Personnel Officer, HHD, Guam Territorial Command, Barrigada, Guam
- Jul 91 - Aug 93 Chief, Plans & Action, HHD, Guam Territorial Command, Barrigada, Guam
- Aug 93 - Jun 96 Director of Military Personnel/G1, HHD, Guam Territorial Command, Barrigada, Guam
- Jun 96 - May 97 Assistant Professor of Military Science, HHD, Guam Territorial Command, Barrigada, Guam
- May 97 - May 98 Recruiting and Operations for ROTC BN, HHD, Guam Territorial Command, Barrigada, Guam
- May 98 - May 99 Recruiting and Retention Officer, HHD, Guam Territorial Command, Barrigada, Guam
- May 99 - Mar 02 Plans, Operations and Military Support Officer, HHD, Guam Territorial Command, Barrigada, Guam
- Mar 02 - Mar 04 Command, 94th Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction), Barrigada, Guam
- Mar 04 - Mar 05 Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, HHD Guam Territorial Command, Barrigada, Guam
- Mar 05 - Feb 07 Embedded Training Team, Team Chief, Barrigada, Guam / Fort Riley, Kansas
- Feb 07 - Sep 07 203RD RSAC-E/G1 Mentor, Afghanistan
- Sep 07 - May 08 ARSIC/E, G1, Afghanistan
- May 08 - Jul 09 Commander, 105th Troop Command, Barrigada, Guam
- Jul 09 - Nov 13 Director of Military Personnel/J1, GUARNG Element, Guam National Guard, Barrigada, Guam

ASSIGNMENTS, CONTINUED

Nov 13 - Apr 14 Director of Military Personnel/J1, Army Element, Guam National Guard,
Barrigada, Guam
Apr 14 - Mar 15 Chief of Joint Staff, Joint Force Headquarters, Guam National Guard,
Barrigada, Guam
Mar 15 - Jan 19 The Adjutant General, Guam, Barrigada, Guam

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Legion of Merit
Bronze Star Medal
Meritorious Service Medal (with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)
Army Commendation Medal (with 5 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)
Army Achievement Medal (with 2 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters)
Air Force Achievement Medal
Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal
National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Star)
Afghanistan Campaign Medal
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
Humanitarian Service Medal
Army Service Ribbon
Overseas Service Ribbon
NATO Ribbon
Combat Action Badge
Parachutist Badge

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Lifetime Member, National Guard Association of the United States
Lifetime Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

2020 Inducted to Cadet Command Hall of Fame in Fort Knox, Kentucky

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

2LT 16 May 88
1LT 24 May 91
CPT 3 Oct 93
MAJ 4 Sep 98
LTC 24 Mar 05
COL 3 Apr 09
BG 1 Aug 15