



**Hispanic-American Veterans of Connecticut, Inc. (HAVOCT)**  
Connecticut's First Hispanic-American Veterans Community Organization  
A 501 c 3 Organization

**HAVOCT INC CY2016 Accomplishments**

**Executive Directors**

Gabe Botero  
*President*

LTC Lesbia I. Nieves (Interim)  
*Vice-President*

SSG Miguel A. Figueroa  
*Treasurer*

SFC (RET) Julio Diaz  
*Secretary*

Luis M. Vera  
*Sergeant at Arms*

Nathaniel Davis  
*Parliamentarian*

**Board of Directors**

**Vacant**  
*Chaplain*

**Vacant**  
*Program Development*

SFC Juan L. Cruz (Interim)  
*Public Affairs*

**Vacant**  
*Legislative Services*

Luis Vera  
*Color Guard, NCOIC*

**Vacant**  
*Personnel Services*

LTC Lesbia I. Nieves  
*Social Services*

ALL  
*Historian*

HAVOCT INC members and associates;

Below are the accomplishments that HAVOCT INC as an organization accomplished during the period of January 2016 through December 2016

**January 2016**

- HAVOCT INC received a visit from Dr. Anne Klee and Ms. Carlos Correa from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs to discuss the Peer Support Program. After the meeting was over Mr. Correa became a member of HAVOCT INC and started the process of a Peer Support Program with HAVOCT INC.
- HAVOCT INC members went over the Accomplishment Plan for the upcoming three years. In addition, we discussed the Strategic Plan and the Financial Plan.

**February 2016**

- HAVOCT INC went over the Hispanic Flags accountability process and they were all present, we discussed the Case Intake Forms and the Consent Forms.
- SFC Juan L. Cruz made the fundraising letters for the Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony and coordinated with SSG Jose (Joe) G. Pickard in order to attend the radio station WPRX to have a Radio Marathon to raise funds.

**March 2016**

- HAVOCT INC planned the Radio Marathon for the month of April 02 and 03, 2016.
- HAVOCT INC planned the CGM Send Off at the Officer's/NCO Club located at the Hartford Armory. The event is for April 11, 2016.
- Received financial support from the Hispanic Officers Association to support the CGM on April 13, 2016.

**April 2016**

- On April 02, 2016, SFC Cruz & SSG Pickard participated in the Radio Marathon and only collected \$25.00 from the radio audience.
- On April 11, 2016 HAVOCT INC members participated in the CMG Send Off and it was quite a successful event. We had the attendance of Governor Malloy, LT Governor Wyman, Hartford City Mayor and other; to include SSG Jose (Joe) G. Pickard and SSG Celestino Cordova.

- On April 12/13/14, 2016, HAVOCT INC members such as SSG Pickard, SSG Cordova, LTC Nieves, SFC (RET) Figueroa, PFC Torruella and SFC Cruz went to Washington DC for the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony. This was a great event where our two Borinqueneers received a copy of the CGM made out of Bronze. They were truly honored and blessed that they participated.
- More donations came on board and we were able to have the funds available for our trip. HAVOCT INC, gave a \$2,000.00 donation.
- Other agencies and individuals that donated are as follows: Hispanic Officer Association of Hartford CT, Diane Alverio, Francisca Vazquez, CTMC Borinqueneers, Marilyn Alverio, VET Center and HAVOCT INC.
- HAVOCT INC participated in the Art Connection Studio on April 21, 2016; this event was very successful and 100% of the paintings were created by individuals with mental disabilities, a true work of inspiration.

#### May 2016

- HAVOCT INC members sent email and reach out to family members and Veterans from WWI, WWII and Korean War to identify service members that were part of the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. These efforts were made in order to gather a group of service members that could potentially were part of the Borinqueneers and who would be receiving the CGM during the event at the CT State Capitol on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- HAVOCT INC members such as LTC Nieves and SFC Cruz went to Saint Joseph College to work with the Vet Program that the college have in place. Their plan is to roll a program with Veterans during the month of July 2016.
- HAVOCT INC members started the plan for the HAVOCT INC 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Military Ball and Award Banquet, which will be held at the Aqua Turf, Plainville, CT.
- On May 28, 2016, LTC Nieves, SFC (RET) Figueroa and PFC Torruella went to the Hartford Veterans Cemetery to honor service members as part of Memorial Day. This is an annual event that SFC (RET) Figueroa always plans.

#### July 2016

- The HAVOCT INC monthly meeting was held by LTC Nieves due to the fact that SFC Cruz was out of the country; unfortunately only three members were present; no action was addressed.
- July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, HAVOCT INC members held the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony at the CT State Capitol. A total of 8 service members were recognized and they are: CPL Felix Rosado Melendez (Deceased), CPL Jesus Manuel Marquez Miranda, Hernan Serrano Davila, Jesus Luis Martinez Torres (Deceased), Manuel Gonzalez Bernard (MIA), PVT Abraham Martinez Santiago (Deceased), SFC Luis Rodriguez-Rodriguez and SSG Luis Ruben Centeno Sanchez. In addition, SSG Jose (Joe) G. Pickard and SSG Celestino Cordova were also present. The event was a success and counted with the presence of MAJ (RET) Frank Medina, Mr. Sammy Rodriguez, U.S. Senator Hon. Richard Blumenthal, Hartford Mayor Hon. Luke Bronin and DVA Commissioner LTC Sean Connolly.

#### August 2016

- HAVOCT INC members continued the plans for the HAVOCT INC Military Ball and Award Banquet for November 19, 2016 at the Aqua Turf. No other action took place.

#### September 2016

- HAVOCT INC members continued the plans for the HAVOCT INC Military Ball and Award Banquet for November 19, 2016 at the Aqua Turf. No other action took place.

#### October 2016

- HAVOCT INC members continued the plans for the HAVOCT INC Military Ball and Award Banquet for November 19, 2016 at the Aqua Turf.
- HAVOCT INC started the process for the November 2016 HAVOCT INC Presidential Nomination.

#### November 2016

- November 05, 2016 – the new HAVOCT INC President was selected SPC/Mr. Gabriel “Gabe” Botero.
- November 19, 2016 – the HAVOCT INC Military Ball and Award Banquet took place and members were honored for their service with the Congressional Gold Medal efforts, also members were recognized for the contribution with HAVOCT INC since its inception.

#### December 03, 2016

- HAVOCT INC members met with the new HAVOCT INC as he started the new journey. He shared with us his vision for the new year 2017. Meetings will be held the last Saturdays of the month unless otherwise directed.
- No events took place during this month.

Overall, HAVOCT INC and its members, LTC Lesbia Nieves, SFC (RET) Carmelo Figueroa, SFC (RET) Larry Kennedy, Lucia Goicoechea Hernandez, MAJ (RET) Edna Acosta-Newson, Edith Miller, SSG Miguel Figueroa, Luis Vera, SSG Joe Pickard, SSG Celestino Cordova, Nathaniel Davis, Santiago Malave, SFC (RET) Julio Diaz, PFC Miguel Torruella and SFC Juan L. Cruz, etc. also participated in many other events are organizations, such as:

- South Park Inn
- American Legion, Hartford CT
- American Legion, Windsor CT
- Wreath Across America
- OIF/OEF Veterans Organization – Federal DVA
- CT Veterans & Military Coalition
- AFSCME- Council 4
- Borinqueneers CGM Design Liaison team
- Borinqueneers Congressional Gold Medal Alliance
- Bilingual Outreach Center of Massachusetts
- Troop 125 Hartford Boy Scout

HAVOCT INC and its board members are very proud of the success of the organization. We look forward to another year of more success stories and accomplishments.