

Ms Suarez

August 10, 2020

Thank you for providing the sad information regarding the passing of Carlos Martinez. We stand with you, your employees and the Martinez family in mourning the passing of a great American. Though not a personal friend, over the years I witnessed from a distance the wonderful work of the NVOP. Carlos and his staff made the NVOP a shining light among the American GI Forum. When we gathered for our national convention, we always looked forward to the NVOP reports and participation.

As time moved on many changes took place within the American GI Forum however, regardless of leadership changes or arising challenges, the NVOP always stayed on a steady course. In a very special way Carlos and the NVOP were and remain the "Big Brother" of the American GI Forum. Leadership by example never goes out of style.

We will all miss Carlos dearly and pray that he Rests In Peace.

Augustine Lerma

American GI Forum, San Jose Chapter

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From: Yolanda Suarez, Senior Vice President AGIF/NVOP

To All:

If you received the news yesterday of the loss of an American GI Forum NVOP icon, I know that the news of was shocking to all. The passing of Carlos Martinez, President/CEO is devastating and incredible. He was in communication with me all throughout his battle with COVID-19. He lost his wife almost four weeks ago. As of Monday, August 3rd he communicated that he had a good night's rest and was feeling much better.

Yesterday, he could no longer fight the virus that takes a healthy body and ravishes it with its venom. Carlos passed at approximately 1:30 pm of a heart attack, which he had no underlying conditions for.

He was emailing and responding to emails and texts as late as Monday, Aug. 3rd. He loved this organization, he made it what it is today. He is known and respected locally and nationally as a very distinguished and intellectual Leader. His mentoring, guidance, and meticulous manner in which he lead will be greatly missed. He has been a great, kind, funny leader and was always thinking of what was the best for the organization, its employees and the clients served.

I have worked for Carlos for 42 years come August 14th. I know in my heart that he wants us to continue his love of service to veterans. It will be a bumpy road ahead for us all but with his continued support from paradise, we will prevail.

His two daughters have lost both parents within a month of each other. If you want to express your condolences to the family you can send sympathy cards to:

The Martinez Family

c/o American GI Forum NVOP

611 N. Flores, Suite 200

San Antonio, Texas 78205

The cards will be collected and given to his family. He will be buried at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery as he is an Air Force veteran. At this time I have no further information on his services. Please feel free to send to others that knew Carlos.

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### **American GI Forum honors alumnus CEO Carlos Martinez**

**Posted on Monday, August 20, 2018**

For nearly 50 years, Carlos Martinez (BBA '74, MBA '94) has led the American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program, Inc., a nonprofit he founded to serve the needs of military veterans.

Under his direction, the National Veterans Outreach Program (NVOP) has served an estimated 450,000 veterans, family members and other needy individuals in San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and El Paso.

The American GI Forum (AGIF) recently held a tribute luncheon for Martinez at the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel as part of its 70th anniversary conference. Multiple speakers recognized the contributions of Martinez, AGIF NVOP President and CEO.

“Carlos is humble and does not look for accolades,” said Paul Bernal, comptroller for the AGIF NVOP. “He believes in serving others and finding great people to work with him, people who believe in the same mission. He’s very intelligent but also a visionary. His mind is always working on what else we can do to help our community.”

Martinez, 71, started AGIF NVOP in 1972 with 10 employees and a \$100,000 grant for six months. Today, he manages a nonprofit with an \$18 million budget and 160 employees in five cities.

A veteran himself, Martinez served four years in the Air Force as a crew chief for F-4 phantom jets that were flown in the Vietnam War. Though he did not serve in Vietnam, Martinez was told not to wear his uniform when he came home for leave.

“There was a lot of animosity and it was a reaction to the way people felt who were against the war,” Martinez said.

Hostility toward U.S. soldiers inspired Martinez to start AGIF NVOP. “Vietnam-era veterans were not being appreciated by the country,” he said. “And they were not receiving the services they needed. I believe the benefits and recognition that veterans get today was built on the shoulders of the Vietnam veterans who were not well received when they came back from the war.”

AGIF NVOP has evolved to a multi-corporate structure with six sub-corporations that offer nationally recognized programs for veterans and their families. The nonprofit provides housing for homeless and elderly veterans, employment for disabled veterans along with other services.

Two years after founding AGIF NVOP, Martinez earned his BBA from OLLU.

“I grew up on Durango Street, on the West Side of San Antonio,” Martinez said. “If I looked straight down the street, I could see the Our Lady of the Lake University steeple. It was always there in my mind. When I came home from service (in 1970), it had become coed and I decided to apply. I am proud and grateful I did. It’s a great school.”

The education he received has served him well with AGIF NVOP. “The Lake taught me all the basics of good sound business practices and processes,” Martinez said. “I adjusted those to fit a nonprofit operation. We’ve expanded in a very non-traditional way for nonprofits. I diversified our funding rather than rely on one funding stream. I created sub-corporations. Those are business practices I learned at Our Lady of the Lake University.”

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Funeral Services For Mr. Carlos Martinez & Mrs. Rita Martinez

**PLACE: PORTER LORING FUNERAL HOME**  
**ADDRESS: 2102 North Loop 1604 East**  
**San Antonio, Texas 78232**  
**(210) 495-8221**

**DATE: AUGUST 24, 2020**  
**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM**  
**At Porter Loring Funeral Home**  
**11:30 AM -- Interment**  
**Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetary**

Note:Porter Loring Funeral Home will be posting a link for viewing the

services prior to Aug. 24th due to the limitation of attendees.

His two daughters have lost both parents within a month of each other. If you want to express your condolences to the family you can send sympathy cards to:

**The Martinez Family**  
**c/o American GI Forum NVOP**  
**611 N. Flores, Suite 200**  
**San Antonio, Texas 78205**

The cards will be collected and given to his family. He will be buried at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery as he is an Air Force veteran.

