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## Legislator Martinez Honors the Fallen Soldiers of the 9th Legislative District

On Friday, May 26, 2014 Legislator Martinez honored fallen soldiers of the 9<sup>th</sup> Legislative District who perished during the Afghanistan-Iraqi War. The ceremony was held at the VFW Post 6431 under the leadership of Commander Sabrina Lacy and Judge Carlos Cintron.

“Though it is the unofficial/official start to the summer season, we cannot forget the true meaning of Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a day to remember those men and women who have perished fighting to preserve our freedoms as Americans,” stated Legislator Martinez as she addressed the families and friends of the fallen soldiers.

Legislator Martinez added, “The 9<sup>th</sup> Legislative District has lost four (4) vibrant lives to the Afghan-Iraqi War, namely, Jose L. Ruiz, Ramon Mateo, Raheen Tyson Heigher and Michael J. Esposito, Jr. The aforementioned young men risked their lives to defend our freedoms and we cannot forget their courage and bravery.”

To conclude the ceremony, Legislator Martinez left the families with a quote by James A. Garfield at Arlington National Cemetery on May 30, 1968, “*We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue.*”



Photo 1 (Left): Legislator Martinez with the family of Lance Corporal Ramon Mateo

Photo 2 (Right): Legislator Martinez and VFW Post 6431 Carlos Cintron and Commander Sabrina Lacy