

James M. Sims Sworn In As **Washington State Director**



Mrs. Sims, SD Sims, and Director Benton

Mr. James M. Sims was sworn in to serve as the Washington State Director for the U.S. Selective Service System (SSS) on November 20, 2018. Director Donald M. Benton, presided at the ceremony and administered the oath to Mr. Sims. Governor Jay Inslee nominated Mr. Sims for this position earlier this year.

He served more than 26 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and retired as a Colonel. Mr. Sims is the past National Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart; Chair of the Washington Veterans Legislative Coalition and currently a member of the Governor's Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee.

Director Benton Meets With Governor of Puerto Rico and **Adjutant General**

Director Benton visited Puerto Rico and met with the Governor and other officials to discuss the importance of Driver's License Legislation (DLL). On the first day of his trip, the Director, accompanied by Region II Director Carlos Perez and State Director COL Michelle Fraley, met with members of the State House of Representatives, the Senate and the Puerto Rico National Guard.

The second day began very early with the Director addressing a breakfast hosted by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and coordinated by Ms. Elsie Valdes. The breakfast was attended by key community influencers who could accurately convey the importance of registration to young people in Puerto Rico. Some of the key influencers included several of the University of Puerto Rico's regional satellite campuses, the Adjutant General and former Adjutant Generals of the PR Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Association of the US Army, the American Legion, the Military Order of the World Wars, and the current Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army amongst many others. Director Benton presented the Adjutant General, BG Rivera with an Eagle to thank him and the Guard for their extraordinary support to the Selective Service team in Puerto Rico.

From there, Director Benton, Mr. Perez and COL Fraley moved to the governor's mansion to meet with Governor Ricardo Roselló Nevarres. During the meeting, Director Benton explained the importance of registration and the impact it could have on young Puerto Ricans and their future. Governor Roselló was very supportive of the Selective Service and pledged his support of the DLL. After this meeting Director Benton, COL Fraley, and Mr. Perez

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Director's Puerto Rico Visit (Continued)



Director Benton addresses the LULAC hosted breakfast

met Representative José F. Aponte Hernández, Chairman of the Federal, International Affairs and Status. Representative Aponte was one of the sponsors of the new law. The new DLL law will make registration with the Selective Service automatic versus optional. From the state Capitol, the Director and staff moved to Fort Buchanan to meet with BG Dustin Shultz, the Commanding General (CG) of the 1st Mission Support Command (MSC), US Army Reserve. BG Shultz has pledged unwavering support to the Selective Service. In recognition of his support, the 1st MSC will be providing the "first ever" noncommissioned officer to become an RFO assigned to Region II.



Director Benton presents BG Rivera, PR TAG, with an SSS Eagle for his support to the PR team

After a very productive meeting with the CG, the SSS team moved to the office of the Secretary of Education. The team was graciously received by Dr. Julia Keleher, the Secretary of Education. Dr. Keleher immediately offered her support and pledged to provide a forum for COL Fraley to address the seven school superintendents and their staff about

Selective Service. Dr. Keleher recognized the Puerto Rico RFO, LTC Andres Ausua, the auxiliary superintendent of schools for the southern part of the Island. The very long day culminated with the Puerto Rico Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Carlos Contreras Aponte. Like everyone they met on the Island, Secretary Contreras pledged his full support and the support of the Department of Transportation and Public Works. Secretary Contreras and his legal advisor will task the Department of Motor Vehicles to work with the Selective Service Data Management Center to ensure the on-time registration of young Puerto Rican males once the law is passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor.



Mr. Perez, Gov Roselló and Director Benton met at the Governor's Mansion (La Fortaleza)



Director Benton and Dr. Keleher, Secretary of Education

Director's Puerto Rico Visit (Continued)



The President of the House of Representatives, Rep Carlos Johnny Mendez, sponsored the Driver's License Legislation



Rep José F. Aponte Hernandez and Director Benton



Lcdo. Pedro C. De Jesús Román, Legal Advisor and Acting Executive Director, Director Benton, Secretary Contreras, COL Fraley, and Mr. Perez



BG Shultz, COL Fraley, Mr. Perez, and Director Benton discussing Army Reserve support to the Selective Service in the 1st MSC Headquarters

Director Benton Meets with Governor of the Virgin Islands

Director Benton and Region II Director Mr. Carlos Perez visited the U.S. Virgin Islands from October 23-24, 2018 to meet with the Governor and other officials. State Director Warrington Tyson accompanied them to meet with the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Sharon Ann McCollum and the Chief of Staff, Mr. Anthony Thomas. SD Tyson will work with the high school principals in St. Thomas and St. Croix to talk to the students about registration and to train the high school registrars. Some of the high school registrars left the USVI after the hurricanes and migrated to the mainland for work. Dr. McCollum also committed to appoint new registrars.



Mr. Perez, SD Tyson, Director Benton, Dr. McCollum, and CoS Thomas

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Director's Virgin Islands Outreach Trip (Continued)



Director Benton, US Delegate Plaskett, SD Tyson and Mr. Perez

The next meeting that the SSS leadership had was with Ms. Stacey Plaskett, the Virgin Island delegate to the US House of Representatives. Ms. Plaskett, pledged full support to Director Benton. The SSS team visited the USVI legislature and met with the President of the Senate, Senator Myron Jackson. Director Benton, Mr. Perez and SD Tyson then met with Local Board Members, the District Appeals Board, JROTC instructors and cadets, and high school principals.

The SSS leadership went from St. Thomas to St. Croix to meet with the Governor, the Honorable Kenneth E. Mapp. Hurricane Maria damaged the governor's mansion therefore Governor Mapp welcomed the SSS team at an alternate office in St. Croix. Director Benton expressed his gratitude to the Governor for the great support to the Selective Service. After the hurricanes, the Governor's office expedited all applications for Board Members allowing



Governor Mapp and Director Benton

VI to reach 99%. Very supportive of the Selective Service, Governor Mapp told Director Benton that he will support all activities that increase the awareness of the requirement to register.



SD Tyson, Mr. Perez, Senator Jackson and Director Benton



Director Benton presents SD Tyson with Eagle

Director Benton presented SD Tyson with a Selective Service Eagle for his commitment to the Agency and the residents of the USVI. A former RFO, SD Tyson has served the SSS for over 20 years as an RFO and State Director. After Hurricanes Irma and Maria, many teachers left and moved to the mainland. With classrooms missing teachers, SD Tyson, a retired high school teacher, returned to his former school and volunteered to teach at no cost to the school. Director Benton also recognized the board members, school principals, the JROTC instructors, and the cadets.

Joint Staff Visits SSS

Members of DoD's Joint Staff Manpower and Personnel Directorate (J-1) made an office call to Selective Service to meet with the Director and senior leadership. The agency looks forward to our continued partnership with JS/J1.



Boy Scout Troop Meets with the Director

Boy Scout Troop 1780, located in Waldorf, Maryland, stopped by Selective Service to visit with Director Benton and learn about the importance of registration. According to the troop's Scoutmaster Blaine Caracter they currently have 12 active scouts in the unit with two Boy Scouts earning the rank of Eagle Scout this year and another one on the way. The troop stays busy with many fun activities most recently participating in a Veterans Day parade.



Director Benton and Scoutmaster Blaine Caracter

Length of Service Awards

Mr. Roderick R. Hubbard, Associate Director (Support Services) and Chief Financial Officer presented some members of his team with Length of Service awards. Congratulations to the recipients and thank you for your years of public service.



Cane Toussaint - 5 Years



Caroline Adams - 15 Years (Jennifer Hayes looks on)



Jennifer Hayes - 15 Years

Length of Service Awards (Continued)



Cora Shepherd - 15 Years



Blaine Caracter - 20 Years



Zonda Fuller - 20 Years (Cora Shepherd looks on)

Illinois State Director Honored



SD Tony Libri was a recipient of Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Illinois Bicentennial Office's Bicentennial HONOR 200. It honors the work of 200 veterans who continue to make extraordinary contributions to the people of Illinois.

Mr. Tony Libri

"America is the greatest nation on earth because of the sacrifice of our veterans," said Governor Bruce Rauner. "We are proud to honor these 200 men and women as part of our Bicentennial celebration. Their service didn't stop when they took off their uniforms. They continue to be heroes among us by going above and beyond the call of duty to take care of the people in their communities."

Nominees were evaluated based on their achievements, and on the extent to which their contributions have aided, benefited and provided inspiration to their community at large. In addition, nominees must have received an honorable discharge from the U.S. military and reside in Illinois. Congratulations to Mr. Libri!

Puerto Rico Team Briefs Department of Education

On October 30, 2018, State Director COL (Retired) Michelle M. Fraley, Ph.D. and LTC Andres Ausua, Reserve Force Officer, had their first session with the seven regional Auxiliary Superintendents of Student Services of the Puerto Rico Department of Education. State Director Fraley and LTC Ausua engaged the audience with various strategies that high school counselors can use to ensure young men register for the Selective Service System.



State Director Col (Ret.) Michelle Fraley with PR School Superintendents.

Region III Employees Participate in Turkey Trot 5k

Region III employees Mrs. Angelique Henry and Mrs. Maryann Rangel participated in the Buckley AFB Turkey Trot 5K on November 20, 2018. Mrs. Henry placed first and Mrs. Rangel placed second in their age groups. Great job ladies!



L to R: Mrs. Henry and Mrs. Rangel

Thanksgiving Luncheon 2018



Pictured is Region II's Annual Thanksgiving luncheon. They invite their families and retired and former employees of the Selective Service. This year, the invitation was extended to the Air Force environmental engineers and their families. Next year, Region II is looking forward to extending this tradition to the entire building of 922! Everyone enjoys this event because they get a chance to catch up with former co-workers and friends, and create new friendships and memories.

DMC & Region I Give Thanks

On November 15, 2018, DMC and Region I employees sat down together to celebrate Thanksgiving. Everyone looked forward to spending time together with their friends and colleagues. Thanks to the cooking efforts of Pam Miller, Daisy Santiago, Marisela Negron, and Lori Alcorn employees feasted on turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, corn, dressing, rolls, and cake. Everyone enjoyed this special meal and expressed the sentiment that they are blessed to be a part of the Selective Service System family!



L to R: Lacy Walton, Robert Broze, Terry Wiley, and Rhonda Robinson

DMC Honors Veterans

On November 8, 2018 the DMC staff honored 22 employees who are military veterans. After giving a brief history on Veterans Day, Nicole Harris, DMC Manager, assisted by Glenn Rapanos, Mail Processing Assistant, presented all veterans with a United States flag and a flag from their branch of service. This ceremony was just a small way to show DMC veterans how much their service and sacrifice is appreciated.

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DMC Honors Veterans (Continued)



L to R: Tim Sayles, Patrick Henning, Cheryl James, Veronica Quinette, Bernard Washington, Lacy Walton, Andy Gonzalez, Larry Dyson, Bernard Ben-Carew, Francisco Morales, Katrina Williams, Kyle Wisher, Trevor Barlow, John Callahan, Mark Fitzjarrell, Carissa MacNaught, Terry Wiley, Brent Downs, Glenn Rapanos, and Matt Adams. Not pictured: John Miller and Rob Grinton

Contributors

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