

Juan R. Torres

Juan R. Torres earned his eligibility for membership in the Sons of The American Legion through his father, Juan Torres Jr., who served in the U.S. Air Force from 1964-1968 during the Vietnam War era.

Torres is a member Sons Squadron 472 in Houston. He comes from a family of American Legion Family members such as his mother, Bertha, his two sisters, a niece and nephews. Both of his children, Brianna Alexis and Juan Fidel, have been members of the Auxiliary and Sons since birth.

As a proud member of Squadron 472 for the past 20 years, Torres serves as its current commander and has held the position of adjutant and finance officer. At the district level, Torres is the current vice commander and has previously served as commander. At the division level, Torres has served as commander, vice commander, adjutant and sergeant-at-arms. And for the Detachment of Texas, Torres has served as commander, vice commander, alternate National Executive Committeeman, sergeant-at-arms, and assistant sergeant-at-arms; he too has served as Membership chairman, Boys State chairman, and Convention City chairman. At the national level, Torres has served as Membership Committeeman and Convention City.

In 2001, American Legion Post 472 reopened open its doors after the building had been destroyed in a fire. Before the fire, pictures showed that Squadron 472 was active. In July 2001, Torres was first introduced to the Sons of The American Legion as efforts begun to reactivate Squadron 472, which Torres was elected as adjutant. Six months later he was elected squadron commander. Three years later, Torres started to attend detachment meetings to learn more about the organization and its principles.

With the help of its membership, Squadron 472 started the program "Angel Share Your Christmas," which invites 100 elementary school kids to Post 472 and provides them with Christmas gifts. Since starting the program, the squadron provided 4,800 gifts to about 1,500 children, with an estimated cost of over \$30,000.

Torres is proud to say that he is a member of the Sons of The American Legion, a member of Squadron 472, and that he is a son of a veteran.