

Manuel “Manny”_Diaz was born on May 30th 1925 in Simons, California. He attended school in Montebello.

He was drafted in June of 1944. He trained at Camp Robertson in Arkansas. After completing his training he was shipped to New York for embarkation to the European theater of operation. He landed-in Le Havre France and joined the **36th Infantry Division**, the Texas division. He was assigned to the 2nd platoon of **Company “E”** of the **142nd Infantry Regiment**. He soon earned a reputation as a very capable infantry soldier. He fought in three campaigns: Southern France; Central Europe and Rhineland.

He was awarded a **Silver Star** for his valiant charge against a German pillbox under intense enemy fire. His efforts resulted in eight enemy soldiers captured.

Among his other decorations were:

- A Bronze Star - For exemplary conduct in ground combat
- Combat infantry badge
- World War II victory medal
- Occupation medal
- Presidential Unit Citation

After the war he reenlisted into the regular army and served in the Army of occupation in Germany as an MP. He was assigned to patrol the German autobahn.

In May of 1953 he left Germany, and was assigned to Ft. Lewis Washington where he continued his duties as an MP with the 44th Infantry Military Police. He was discharged from the Army with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

He met his wife Angie, and they married in 1957. Together they have raised four children.

After his discharge he tried different occupations. He settled in as a career employee with Zapata Pipeline Construction Company in 1960, and retired in 1985. After retirement he continued to "work to keep himself busy.

He joined VFW Post 6315 in 1990, and has been a valued member ever since. His commitment to his family, his country and his community has made him a person to be admired and emulated.

SSgt Diaz shared with the audience the fact that there were 3 Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients from his unit;

However, per **Francisco Barragán's** research, **4 MOH** were identified from **142nd Infantry Regiment / 36th Infantry Division** as follows:

- Bernard P. Bell; (Company "I")
- Edward C. Dahlgren; (Company "E")
- Emile R. Deleau Jr; (Company "A"), and
- Silvestre S. Herrera ((Company "E")

Article shared by Virginia Razo (323) 722-7244

Revised by Francisco J. Barragán

UMAVA, Vice-Commander

United Mexican-American Veterans Association

barraganfj@yahoo.com

714.605.2544 cell

See Manuel Diaz pictures and newspaper articles at our website at:

<http://umava.org/>