

Welcome to the Highland Lakes Honor Guard Honoring our departed Comrades with Dignity and Respect

PURPOSE

Our primary purpose is to give to all military veterans their last salute and farewell to arms. It is an honor and privilege to provide this service to our fellow veterans and their families. We hope that by visiting this site that you will come to know that we have the utmost respect for all military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

We feel that it shows in how we perform our duties in giving our respect to these veterans who have earned so much more than that. We salute them always along with our flag and our great country. If you have any questions, comments, or are in need of our services, please feel free to contact us and we will respond as soon as possible.

The Highland Lakes Honor Guard is the only civilian Honor Guard in Burnet and Llano County that is Certified as Authorized Providers by the Department of Defense available to officially render military funeral honors on behalf of the United States government.

Our web site will give you some idea of who we are and what we do. We sincerely invite you to enjoy your visit here and to return often.

The Highland Lakes Honor Guard never charges for its services and never will. However, honorariums to cover expenses are gratefully accepted but again, not required.

Thank you for visiting. May God bless you, our country, and all our military men and women past, present, and future.

HISTORY

The Highland Lakes Honor Guard started as a vision by Charlie Taylor, a veteran of the United States Navy, who had gained considerable experience with an honor guard unit in Pennsylvania before retiring to the hill and lake country of Texas. Noticing that few honor guard services were being provided by local veteran organizations, he proceeded to locate other veterans who would be dedicated and interested in providing honor guard services to the veteran community and their families. Since then, the group has been well on its way towards serving the veterans and their families in the greater Highland Lakes area.

The Highland Lakes Honor Guard serves all branches of the military be it Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines Coast Guard, and Space Force. POW/MIAs (Prisoner of War/Missing in Action) are honored as well. The importance of forming a local honor guard has become critical. Our country's involvement in various military operations around the world, most recently in Iraq and Afghanistan, has greatly reduced the availability of active service personnel to perform military honors. Currently, military honor guards must travel from Killeen or Austin to attend funerals. Frequently, this is on short notice and is a full time job.

Fortunately, a provision in The National Defense Authorization Act responds to the shortage of military personnel to staff such honor guards and increases the likelihood that an honor guard will be available to the families of veterans who served their country.

The measure requires the military services to provide the honor guard details. But it allows the Secretary of defense to suspend the requirement in cases of military necessity. It authorizes the Department of Defense to provide material and equipment to non-governmental organizations e.g. veterans groups such as the Highland Lakes Honor Guard, for support of honor guard activities.

The Highland Lakes Honor Guard is a 501(c)(19) tax-exempt organization consisting of veterans from every branch of the Armed Forces of the United States who have served their country honorably. We are certified by the Department of Defense as Authorized Providers to render military funeral honors for deceased members who have been honorably discharged from military service or who have died while on active duty. Essentially, we function as a quasi-military unit for the rendering of military funeral honors when performing those duties.

Although some of our members may be members of other veteran organizations, we are not affiliated with any other veteran organization and are independent of them.

At graveside, funeral home, church or private location, the Highland Lakes Honor Guard appears in full uniform. We provide a flag display consisting of the National, Texas and POW/MIA flags together with the service branch flag under which the deceased veteran has served. We provide a rifle squad to execute a full three-volley rifle salute, a bugler to sound TAPS, a flag folding ceremony wherein the symbolic meaning of each of the 13 folds is explained, insertion of spent casings from the three-volley rifle salute into the folded flag, and the presentation of the folded flag to the next of kin.

These services are offered free to surviving members of the decedent's family within Burnet or Llano County, Texas. Although donations are appreciated, they are not asked for, expected or required for the services we offer. What we do is an act of love for those who have honorably and faithfully served their country and have now gone to their eternal rest. The Highland Lakes Honor Guard is exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code. Deductions made to the Highland Lakes Honor Guard are deductible as a charitable donation on federal income tax returns.

If a family member is in need of our services, contact Commander Charlie Taylor at 325-248-1833. If unable, contact Vice Commander Karl Provost at 512-800-9033, email rhino1lead@gmail.com. As much advance notice as possible is appreciated.

Those who have served honorably in any branch of the United States Armed Forces are encouraged to join our organization. For further details, see the Membership page.

NOTE: If you are in need of the rendering of veteran military services in the greater Austin area, please contact the **Texas National Guard's Military Funeral Honors Program** at 2200 West 35th Street Austin, Texas 78963-5218. Tel. No. 512-782-5321.

Honor Guard meetings are held periodically on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. at the First Methodist Church in Marble Falls, Texas. Those interested in joining are invited to attend. **Call Commander Taylor to confirm time and location.**