

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

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State Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, Chair of the Texas Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations, to be awarded medal by National Guard Association of the United States

(SAN ANTONIO) -- The National Guard Association of the United States will award State Senator Leticia Van de Putte (D-San Antonio) with the prestigious Charles Dick Medal of Merit at her district office today. The national award recognizes the contributions of elected officials on behalf of the National Guard. Van de Putte earned the honor because of her strong advocacy of the Texas National Guard.

The award will be presented by Lt. Gen. Charles Rodriguez, who nominated Van de Putte for the medal. Also present will be, CSM Richard Vasquez, CPT Arturo Raygoza and Ray Leinder, Director of the National Guard Association of Texas.

"This is a tremendous honor for the National Guard to present this award. The Charles Dick Medal of Merit is given to individuals whose contributions have most benefitted soldiers and airmen of the National Guard, and Senator Van de Putte's contributions to our organization is a perfect example," Gen. Rodriguez said.

The Charles Dick Medal of Merit was established in 1988 to recognize the contributions to the National Guard by elected representatives to legislative bodies at the state and national levels. It is among the highest awards bestowed by the National Guard Association of the United States.

The medal is named for Maj. Gen. Charles Dick, president of the National Guard Association from 1902 to 1909, a major general in the Ohio National Guard, a Congressman, and later a Senator. Sen. Dick was responsible for the passage of the Dick Acts of 1903 and 1908 that established the modern National Guard. The award is presented to an individual who has distinguished him or herself over an extended period of time in their support to the National Guard through service in a state or national elected legislative body.

"I am honored to be recognized by the National Guard Association of the United States. The men and women of the National Guard are time proven, battle ready, and a national asset. I accept on behalf of my legislative colleagues who have aided me in passing critical legislation on behalf of the National Guard," Van de Putte said.