

Latinos in Military History



Sergeant Major Rodriguez, post-deployment from Vietnam.

Special Forces Commander Sergeant Major Ramon Rodriguez began his military career directly out of high school. As a Staff Sergeant (SSG) in the Army, Rodriguez served in Vietnam for 32 months, would later graduate from the United States Ranger School, and commanded the Special Forces scuba team as well as led several rescue missions. During his career, SSG Rodriguez received **17 combat medals and awards** including: three Silver Stars, three Bronze Stars with V and two Oak Leaf Cluster, five Purple Hearts, and was later inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. He would retire as a Command Sergeant Major (CSM) and as one of the most decorated combat soldiers during the Vietnam War.

CSM Rodriguez would be nominated for the Medal of Honor in 1982 for going above and beyond his call of duty during his 32 months in Vietnam. Currently, he is still a candidate to receive the Medal of Honor.

CalVet thanks CSM Rodriguez for his heroism and acts of valor against enemy forces, and we are proud to have him as one of our own, California Veterans.

Have a Latino-inspired photo or story? We would love to hear from you! Send it our way to minorityveterans@calvet.ca.gov.

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