

## **Gunnery Sergeant Abiud Montes, USMCR**

### *Biographic Notes*

Gunnery Sergeant Montes enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on September 11, 1989. He then attended Marine Combat Training and School of Infantry in Camp Geiger, North Carolina. In 1990 he was deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for Combat Operations in Operation Desert Storm where he served as a Tow Gunner with 8<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion (Anti-Tank) TOW Company.

Shortly after the war he transferred back to the Selected Marine Corps Reserve and in 1994 was hired as a Firefighter for the City of Hollywood. Because of his experience as a Marine and knowledge of military Honor Guard protocol he was later selected as an Honor Guard member to represent the City of Hollywood Fire Department in New York for the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony to Honor the fallen firefighters of the New York City Fire Department.

In 2003 Gunnery Sergeant Montes was activated for combat in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as a Vehicle Commander for 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, Regimental Combat Team (RCT 5), 2<sup>nd</sup> Tank Battalion, Scout Platoon. He was part of the main combat element to Baghdad.

Gunnery Sergeant Montes is also very active in his community and church. Eleven years ago he got the Fire Department involved with Marines Toys for Tots toy drive, which was very successful for the Marines and the City of Hollywood. For the last 8 years he has been representing the department as a mentor at local elementary schools for students that don't have fathers. He continues to be involved in career days at local schools in the area. He selflessly sacrifices so much in order to help the children of our future.

He understands that education is important and strives to better himself by recently graduating from Florida Atlantic University with a Bachelor of Public Management and now attending St. Thomas University seeking a Master's of Professional Studies in Executive Management. He is putting good use to his degree by being a preceptor for students who are obtaining their Paramedic license and working part time at Broward College as the Lead Emergency Medical Technician Clinical Instructor.

Gunnery Sergeant Montes's decorations include the Combat Action Ribbon with a Gold Star in lieu of 2<sup>nd</sup> award, the Presidential Unit Citation Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal with a silver star in lieu of 6<sup>th</sup> award, National Defense Service Medal with a star in lieu of 2<sup>nd</sup> award, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon with a star in lieu of 2<sup>nd</sup> award, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hour glass device in lieu of 2<sup>nd</sup> award, Kuwait Liberation Medal (from Saudi Arabia), and the Kuwait Liberation Medal (from Kuwait).

Gunnery Sergeant Montes is 40 years old and married to Lina Montes and has one child Naia Marie Montes who is 4 years old. Gunnery Sergeant Montes currently resides in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.