

During his tenure at Jeffco Public Health, Dr. Johnson has been instrumental in improving the quality of life and health outcomes for local residents and communities. Among his notable accomplishments is his work to help write and pass the Colorado Public Health Act in 2008, which requires use of assessments to determine population health and systemwide capacity issues; develops a five-year state and local public health improvement plan based on assessment results; and engages communities to increase and improve the availability and quality of public health services. The goal of the bill is to ensure that core public health services are available to every person in Colorado.

Under Johnson's leadership, Jeffco has been one of the healthiest areas in the state with lower teen birth rates, lower sexually-transmitted infections, access to parks and recreation, safe food and access to healthcare. Jeffco is doing better in some areas than Colorado and the country.

Dr. Johnson also worked to establish the Colorado School of Public Health, comprised of the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado. It is the

first accredited and only collaborative school of public health in the region.

Dr. Johnson planned to retire in June 2020 but in an effort to maintain continuity for the public health workforce on the frontlines of the pandemic and a population facing a health crisis, announced he would delay his retirement to help see JCPH and Jefferson County residents through this unprecedented time. In retirement, Johnson was looking forward to spending time with grandchildren, and remaining active in his church. We appreciate his sacrifice and ongoing service to our community during this crisis and congratulate Dr. Mark Johnson on a lifetime of service to public health and to our community.

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HONORING THE SERGEANT BENITO  
ALANIZ POST 7473 VETERANS OF  
FOREIGN WARS

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**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 16, 2020*

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honor Guard at Sergeant Benito Alaniz Post 7473 Veterans of

Foreign Wars, located in Elsa, Texas. The Honor Guard was established in the early 2000s.

Honor Guards volunteer to give proper ceremonial funerals to veterans who die. The term "Honor guard" is used because the veterans feel it is a great honor to provide their fellow veterans with military funeral services and pay their final respects. They feel they have been blessed to survive the horrors of war and give back to their fellow brothers and sisters.

Since its inception, Post 7473's Honor Guard has performed over 1,800 services. The majority of volunteers are Vietnam War era veterans, and they provide this service in any weather condition to give fellow veterans the final honors they earned. On average this post will have 8–15 members volunteer for a service.

Madam Speaker, I stand today to acknowledge the decades' long achievement of the Sergeant Benito Alaniz Post 7473 Veterans of Foreign Wars in volunteering to honor fallen veterans in Texas with a proper send-off. Each member of the Sergeant Benito Alaniz Post 7473 Veterans of Foreign Wars is an incredible leader in our community, and their legacy will no doubt inspire public service and volunteerism in future generations.