



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
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Patriotic Display at Housing Commission's Lobby, Thanks to Former Maintenance Worker Who Served in Afghanistan

San Diego, CA—Just in time for the 4th of July, Edmundo Galvan, a Navy Seabee reservist, who served a seven-month tour at a U.S. air base in Kandahar, Afghanistan, presented a flag that was flown over Kandahar in honor of the San Diego Housing Commission where he worked for more than 12 years as a maintenance worker.

The gift is Galvan's way of showing his gratitude to the agency for supporting his efforts to earn an Associate of Science degree by taking advantage of the Housing Commission's employee tuition reimbursement program.

In the quiet moments between work and warfare, Galvan, who is married and has three children, said he had time to reflect on the people he cared most about, including his former workers and supervisors at the San Diego Housing Commission.

"I will forever be grateful to my supervisors at the Housing Commission, who supported my educational efforts," said Galvan who presented the flag today at a morning ceremony attended by more than 50 employees at the Housing Commission's downtown headquarters. "They were good bosses," added Galvan.

While working full-time for the Housing Commission, Galvan attended night classes at Southwestern College for three years and earned a degree in construction inspection. Having his tuition paid by the Housing Commission allowed the maintenance worker to expand his horizons and made him eligible for better jobs as a Seabee reservist and a civilian.

"We will cherish this wonderful gift from Edmundo Galvan, and we are also grateful for his service to our country," said Housing Commission President and CEO Richard C. Gentry. "This is a great example of how tuition reimbursement helps employees achieve their goals."

Galvan, who joined the Navy Seabees as a reservist in 2000, was deployed to Afghanistan in September 2009 and returned home in April 2010.

During his overseas tour, insurgents fired 34 rocket attacks near the air base where Galvan was stationed.

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“When the alarms go off, you head to the bunkers and lie down,” said Galvan, who served as a Builder First Class with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 22.

When he wasn’t hunkered down during the attacks, Galvan said he worked exhausting 16- to 20-hour days building various structures on the base, including a field hospital, command center and barracks.

“I would like to say thanks to employers who have policies supporting the reserve and the Guard,” he said.

The flag will remain on permanent display at the lobby of agency’s downtown headquarters.

Galvan was employed at the San Diego Housing Commission from 1993-2005. He is currently employed at the facilities engineering department at UCSD Medical Center in Hillcrest.

Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission is an award-winning public agency that provides a variety of affordable housing programs that annually improve the lives of nearly 76,000 San Diegans. For more information, visit www.sdhc.org

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