

## What is NOCVA?

NOCVA is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) advocacy organization based in the Nation's capital that seeks to unite and organize Chamorro military veterans in the 50 states to leverage their collective political influence to work on behalf of Chamorro veterans and their families – in the US, in Guam, and in the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

## How did NOCVA start?

NOCVA was started by Chamorro veterans Cel Aguigui, Larry Cruz, and Frank Blas. Since the 1990s, various efforts were made to organize Chamorros from Guam and other Pacific Islanders, but they had limited results. Finally, in August 2011, a meeting with Chamorro veterans in North Carolina led to a renewed effort to establish a grassroots advocacy organization that would enlist the help of Chamorro veterans living in the United States who were motivated to work together on behalf of the Chamorro people.

## Aren't there similar advocacy groups from Guam that already exist – how is NOCVA different?

NOCVA is the first national-level advocacy organization specifically established to unite and organize Chamorro veterans living in the 50 states. Unlike their Chamorro brothers and sisters in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, Chamorro veterans living in the states have voting rights and can leverage their political power to influence issues important to themselves and the Chamorro people.

## Who runs NOCVA?

NOCVA is run by Cel Aguigui and Larry Cruz from the Washington, DC, area, in coordination with Frank Blas in North Carolina and regional coordinators throughout the United States.

## What does NOCVA do for Chamorro Veterans?

- Recognizes and honors their service
- Serves as their voice at national-level veterans' events
- Undertakes initiatives to defend, protect, and promote their rights
- Raises awareness about their unique needs and interests
- Organizes members to be advocates for change

## NOCVA Co-Founders and National Coordinators



Cel Aguigui, Larry Cruz, and Frank Blas

## National Staff

Norma Jeter, Jerry Cruz

Libby Aguigui Nau

Terri Smith, Lourdes Barrett

## NOCVA Website:

[www.chamorrovets.com](http://www.chamorrovets.com)

[www.nocva.org](http://www.nocva.org)

**NOCVA e-mail: [nocva.1@verizon.net](mailto:nocva.1@verizon.net)**

# National Organization of Chamorro Veterans in America



*Working Together  
To Empower  
Chamorro Veterans*

## Mission

NOCVA is dedicated to uniting and empowering Chamorro veterans to actively participate in the U.S. political process so they can work together to influence legislation on issues of concern to Chamorro veterans and their families.

NOCVA will fulfill its mission in the following ways:

### Advocacy

Serve as the voice of Chamorro veterans at national-level events, advocating on their behalf to defend their rights, protect their interests, and promote their achievements



### Recognition

Honor the memory and service of Chamorro veterans through commemorative events and initiatives and maintain a website that features information of interest to Chamorro veterans

### Outreach

Prepare informational presentations for Chamorro veterans to explain how the U.S. political process affects them; encourage active participation to leverage political power in order to influence legislation that affects them and their families

### Networking

Establish a network of members throughout the 50 states, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands — connected by regional chapters and linked at the national level — to help share information and build political power



### Research & Analysis

Monitor services delivered by government agencies and organizations that serve veterans to ensure that they are meeting the unique needs of Chamorro veterans; monitor current legislation for its impact on Chamorro veterans and develop appropriate responses

## Vision

• As the first organization of its kind, NOCVA seeks to be a nationally recognized advocacy organization that unites Chamorro veterans at the grassroots-level, connected at the national-level by regional chapters throughout the 50 states in the U.S., Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).



- Organized and motivated with common purpose, members will be able to effectively participate and engage in the U.S. political process for the purpose of influencing legislation for the benefit of Chamorro veterans and their families.
- NOCVA's long-range plans include hosting a national convention in Washington, D.C., that will bring members together to recognize accomplishments and plan long-term strategic initiatives.