

Universidad de Puerto Rico
Colegio de Agricultura y Artes Mecánicas
SENADO ACADEMICO
Mayagüez, Puerto Rico

Certificación Núm. 68-19

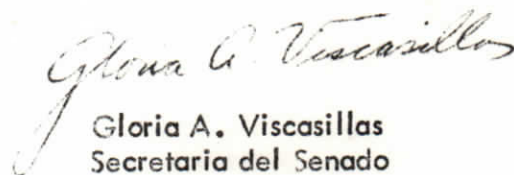
Yo, Gloria A. Viscasillas, Secretaria del Senado Académico del Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, CERTIFICO:

Que en sesión ordinaria celebrada el martes 10 de diciembre de 1968 este organismo tomó por unanimidad el siguiente acuerdo:

1. Recomendar a las autoridades universitarias competentes que el Edificio de Ciencias y Tácticas Militares de este Recinto sea nombrado "COMANDANTE RAFAEL SANCHEZ SALIVA" en homenaje póstumo al distinguido profesor muerto en acción en Vietnam.
2. Que para ello se fije, como constancia de esta dedicación, una placa con el nombre del distinguido claustral en un lugar prominente del susodicho edificio.
3. Y que se lleve a cabo esta dedicación en acto público y solemne, siendo invitados de honor la viuda e hijos del fenecido profesor, e invitados especiales representantes de aquellas organizaciones cívicas y profesionales a que pertenezca el distinguido Comandante Rafael Sánchez Saliva.

Se incluyen y se hacen formar parte de esta certificación los documentos utilizados por el Senado Académico para llegar a este acuerdo.

Y para que así conste, expido y remito a las autoridades universitarias la presente certificación hoy día once de diciembre del año mil novecientos sesenta y ocho, en Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.


Gloria A. Viscasillas
Secretaria del Senado

Anejos

RAFAEL SANCHEZ SALIVA

Born on April 8, 1925 in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. Rafael Sánchez was a proud American and a proud Puertorriqueño. At the age of 18, in 1943, Rafael entered the United States Army for service in World War II. At the end of the war he returned to his beloved Puerto Rico and to college at the University of Puerto Rico from which he graduated in 1952.

Receiving a Second Lieutenant's commission upon graduation, Rafael was again called to serve his country in Korea. By this time he had developed an affection for the service and decided to make it his career.

After serving around the world and across the United States for 18 years, Rafael was a Major and was assigned to the ROTC at the Colegio. His service to his country had been outstanding for this entire period. He was a proud of the Army as it was of him. He was truly a fine officer and performed in accordance with the highest traditions of the military service.

But Rafael Sánchez was more; he was also a Puertorriqueño and a colegial. Never once did he forget they were part of him. Never once did he perform any task without wanting his performance to be a credit to Puerto Rico and the Colegio. Never once did he not instil this same spirit in all his students at the Colegio. And for this he was high in their esteem.

Rafael epitomized the words of John F. Kennedy "ask no what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country." Rafael gave his life - as an American, as a Puertorriqueño and as a Colegial. He will forever be an inspiration for the students who knew him and an example for those to come.

22 May 1966

Major Rafael Sánchez Saliva was born in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico on April 8, 1925. He attended primary and secondary school in the city.

In 1943, he entered the United States Army as an enlisted man. He received his sixteen week basic training at Camp Tortuguero. He then was assigned to an anti-aircraft artillery battalion in the Canal Zone. In 1946, after reaching the grade of Staff Sergeant, he returned to civilian life.

In 1952, after graduating from the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras and receiving a commission as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry, he returned to active duty.

He attended the Infantry Officers Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1952, followed by tour of duty at Fort Polk, Louisiana in 1953. From 1953 to 1954 he was stationed in Korea.

From 1954 to 1960, Major Sánchez was stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where he commanded seven different training companies.

In 1960 he attended the Infantry Officers Advanced Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. Following the completion of this course, he was assigned to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, where he became the Motor Officer for the 1st Battle Group, 35th Infantry; 1st Battle Group, 19th Infantry; and 2nd Battle Group, 35th Infantry.

In 1962 he was selected as Instructor at a special school at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was involved in training. Through his efforts as a Company Commander, approximately one hundred and fifty selected members of the Cuban 25 06 Brigade became officers in the U. S. Army.

From 1964 to 1965 Major Sánchez was the Assistant Supply Officer for the Students Brigade, U. S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

From 1965 to 1966 he was stationed in Korea.

In 1966, Major Sánchez returned to Puerto Rico to be an instructor in the US Army Instructor Group at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus.

He assumed the important duties of Assistant Adjutant, and Instructor for the cadets in their final year of ROTC. In October 1967 he conducted the Veterans Day Parade in Mayaguez. He also devoted a considerable time to teaching the Sponsors for the Student Brigade.

In January 1968 he was ordered to take command of a Civil Affair Team in the Mekong Delta of South Vietnam.

On May 17, 1968, while taking part in a combat operation against the Viet Cong, he was killed in action. Surviving are his wife, the former Juanita Hernández, his daughters Elvia Magda, 17; and Jenny Marisel 15; and sons Rafael Jr., 11 and William, 10.

During more than nineteen years of service Major Sánchez was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge with Star, for participation in two conflicts as a Combat Infantryman; the Purple Heart, The Good Conduct Medal; The Korean Service Medal, The Vietnam Service Medal, the United Nations Campaign Medal and the National Defense Medal.