



## ALAMO MISSION CHAPTER - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

99th Pilgrimage to the Alamo      Monday 24 April 2017

### Press Release and Request for Media Coverage

- Date & Time:** Monday, 24 April 2017 4pm - 5pm      The Alamo
- Location:** 3:30pm Formation at Tobin Center/Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
4:00pm Step Off for procession to the Alamo  
NLT 4:20pm Arrival and Ceremony at the Alamo
- Organization:** Sponsored by Alamo Mission Chapter, DRT
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**Background:** The Pilgrimage to the Alamo began in 1918, just months before the end of WWI. Festivities were suspended that year, out of respect for those fighting overseas. Leadership decided to hold a solemn ceremony rather than a celebratory one, in front of the Alamo at twilight to honor the memory of those who died there in 1836, and as a show of support for our nation at War. In the early years, the evening Pilgrimage was the opening event of Fiesta — newspaper accounts state 5,000 attended to included National, State and Government officials as well as Civic, Patriotic and Historical organizations throughout the area. School-aged children recited their history essays about the Battle of the Alamo from within her walls.

The Military in San Antonio have always participated in the Pilgrimage, even in the War years. Historic photographs depict servicemen and women in concert, procession and formation. In 1942, a special Guard of Honor included men in uniform who were descendants of Alamo heroes. Today, Commanders of the five services present floral tributes to honor Texas heroes and all who wear and have worn the cloth of our nation in defense of freedom.

**Current Program:** The Daughters, Sons and Children of the Republic of Texas are joined by area Military Commands, the Civic and Fiesta Communities as well as historic, patriotic, lineage and educational organizations to process to the Alamo. The formation area is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Tobin Center with step off at 4:00pm. Upon arrival at the Alamo, each group presents a memorial floral tribute, placed reverently and ceremoniously on the greensward in front of the Shrine. The floral tributes will be received by the 10 Military Ambassadors to Fiesta, two representatives from each of the five services. Guests are seated in Alamo Plaza. Visitors are most welcome.

The roster of Alamo Heroes is read aloud, from step-off to last presentation, in continuous litany, by George Harcourt, Alamo Chapter, SRT.

**A short program follows arrival and presentation. The event ends by 5:00pm.**  
(Just in time to go to the Texas Cavaliers River Parade!)

- Post and Retire the Colors: Color Guard, United States Army JBSA-Ft. Sam
- Invocation/Benediction: Rev. Dr. Patrick Gahan, Christ Episcopal Church.
- Welcome and Introductions: Jeanie Travis, Past President, Alamo Mission Chapter
- Pledge to the Flags of the United States & Texas: Dr. Sharon Skrobarcek, President Alamo Mission Chapter, DRT
- Introduction of Speaker: Erwin De Luna, President Fiesta San Antonio Commission
- Keynote Address: Major General Brian C. Lein, Commander AMEDDC&S (Army Medical Department Center and School) at JBSA-Ft. Sam Houston. (Pronounced "Line")
- Taps will be played by a bugler from the 323rd Army Band, "Ft. Sam's Own"

Live florals will remain on the greensward (as weather permits) until evening, then distributed throughout the Alamo grounds for visitor enjoyment for several days.

**Thank You for your support.**

AMC Publicity Chairman, Elaine Vetter, will be available to you and will escort you to our leadership to answer any questions you may have.