

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

June 2023



Marcus Flores

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:
Platte Purchase Chapter, NSDAR

As a first-generation American whose father immigrated from Peru, Marcus Flores enlisted in the Air Force at the Kansas City Military Entrance Processing Center in Kansas City, MO May of 2007. He served until May 2012. He was sent for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. From there he went to Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX. He learned his aerospace ground equipment job at Hill Airforce Base close to Salt Lake City. That job means taking care of an airplane's systems such as the air conditioning, hydraulics, electrical, carts, stands and sometimes loading bombs.



From there he was sent to Bagram AFB in Afghanistan. He also spent time at Al Udeid AFB in Qatar doing the job he had trained for. He arrived in Afghanistan during the first democratic voting hoping to reduce Taliban influence in the elections. Those who voted had a finger marked in purple. There was a lot of violence. The effort was not as successful as was hoped because the ideology of the population was not ready for such an extreme change in the approach to government. Instead of the population being victimized by the Taliban, Isis or other groups, the focus was on the presence of the US in their country. The Taliban fought a guerilla war where they would lay a trap by freezing the rockets at night. When morning came the rocket would thaw. The trap would spring, the rockets would explode in a selected target and the US would react-- but no one was where the trap was by then.

Basically, Marcus was safe inside the plane hangers, so to get a real feel for the war effort he volunteered in a hospital where he saw children left parentless and lots of suffering. This experience really brought home the reality of war and his presence in it. Staff Sergeant Flores was awarded the Meritorious Unit Award and ten other awards for his service.

Marcus was particularly impressed by the F22 Raptor fighter plane, the pinnacle of military might. In order to make sure all was in order for the plane they would chain it down by the hangers and rev the engines clear up to their highest speed. Flames would shoot out and the noise was thrillingly all-consuming. The revving of a car or motorcycle is no longer impressive.

After his overall experience in Afghanistan, Marcus felt that approaching a population with little experience in personal freedom or modern industry, a different approach might be made by teaching the youth about their individual worth and talents. This approach would take lots of training and patience. Marcus is utilizing these lessons in his present career as the Head of the Parkville Living Center whose purpose is to offer various population groups enrichment experiences in several facets of their lives including technology, socialization, and personal choices.

The Platte Purchase Chapter is honored to have Marcus Flores as their Patriot of the Month.