



**PORTCORPUSCHRISTI**

- MEDIA ADVISORY -  
Thursday, June 26, 2014

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## Family of Medal of Honor Recipient to Tour USNS Benavidez

*“Vessels namesake honors Vietnam War hero, Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez”*

**CORPUS CHRISTI, TX, USA** - The family of MSGT Roy P. Benavidez, Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient from El Campo, Texas, will be in Corpus Christi on Friday, June 27 at 10 am to tour the U.S. Navy Cargo Ship. The purpose of the visit is for Sgt. Benavidez' grandchildren, some of whom were not yet born when the ship was commissioned, to have an opportunity to visit the ship named after their grandfather.

MSGT Roy P. Benavidez was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions during the Vietnam War. As a Special Forces Staff Sergeant, Benavidez overcame fierce enemy fire and life threatening injuries to rescue the lives of at least eight soldiers and recover classified documents.

The 950-foot USNS Benavidez, moored at Port Corpus Christi, is a large, medium-speed, roll-on/roll-off ship (LMSR), and can handle more than 300,000 square feet of military equipment including Humvees, tanks, tractors, containerized cargo, and fleet hospitals. The vessel was delivered to the U.S. Navy in September of 2003 and has since transported millions of square feet of combat cargo.

**WHAT:** Family of vessel's namesake and Medal of Honor Recipient, MSGT Roy P. Benavidez, to tour USNS Benavidez  
**WHEN:** Friday, June 27, 2014 @ 10 AM (Late Arrivals Will Not Be Allowed Entry)  
**WHERE:** Southside Cargo Terminal Secured Entrance; Stroman Street, north of Port Ave.

Media who would like to tour the vessel along with the family of MSGT Benavidez must arrive at the Secured Entrance at the Southside Cargo Terminal on Strohman Street no later than 10 AM to obtain clearance and be escorted into the secured area. Late entry will not be permitted. --Please dress comfortably and wear close toed shoes.

## About Port Corpus Christi

*As the primary economic engine of the Coastal Bend, Port Corpus Christi is the 5th largest port in the United States in total tonnage. The Port's mission statement is to "serve as a regional economic development catalyst while protecting and enhancing its existing industrial base and simultaneously working to diversify its international maritime cargo business." Strategically located on the western Gulf of Mexico, with a straight, 45' deep channel, the Port provides quick access to the Gulf and the entire United States inland waterway system. The Port delivers outstanding access to overland transportation with on-site and direct connections to three Class-1 railroads and uncongested interstate and state highways. The Port is protected by a state-of-the-art security department and an award-winning Environmental Management System. With outstanding management and operations staff, Port Corpus Christi is clearly "The Port of the Lone Star State."*

<http://www.portofcorpuschristi.com/>

*Port Corpus Christi is a member of **START (South Texas Alliance for Regional Trade)**, a collaborative effort that highlights business opportunities in South Texas in the manufacturing, energy, aerospace, international trade, military and other sectors and the related strategic support provided by Port San Antonio, Port Corpus Christi and Port Laredo. <http://www.southtexastrade.com/>*

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