Longtime volunteer, retired Air Force Major receives community service award

A retired Air Force major and longtime volunteer received the 7th annual LeRoy V. Greene Jr. Memorial Award at Commissioners Court Tuesday. The award recognizes Bexar County citizens who make contributions that enhance the well-being and quality of life of veterans, military service members and their families.

Joyce “Sean” Habina has volunteered for more than two decades with organizations ranging from the American Red Cross to the Memorial Service Detachment at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, where she serves on the Friday Squad providing full military honors to veterans. For the past nine years she has served as an escort and guardian for World War II veterans traveling to Washington D.C. through Alamo Honor Flight and now Honor Flight San Antonio de Valero. For 21 years she has volunteered with Elf Louise, where she is the “head wrapper” in charge of setting up items needed for wrapping presents at the charity that provides more than 60,000 Christmas gifts to needy children each year. Habina also lends her time to the VFW Post 76 Honor Guard, the Defense Language Institute at Lackland Air Force Base, the National Parks Service, Boy Scouts of America, Kids Network, Civil Air Patrol and the San Antonio International Airport, where she is an Airport Ambassador.

“I am truly honored and humbled. San Antonio has taken me in as part of their family and I want to give back to them in any way that I can,” Habina told Commissioners Court. “I will work as hard as I can to make life easier for the citizens I come into contact with.

All told, Habina says she volunteers approximately 400 hours each year and “if it happens in San Antonio, I want to be there helping out.”

The award was created by Commissioners Court in 2008 in honor of retired Air Force Col. LeRoy Greene Jr., who was one of the original members of the Bexar County Veterans Advisory Committee. Following his 24-year military career, Greene also served the County through the Civil Service Commission, the Bexar County Rail District and other volunteer positions.

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