



PRESS RELEASE

Gary W. Beltoya named 2024 Hometown Hero for the First Quarter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information contact:

Barbara Rangel, KHHC Secretary

625 52nd Street – Room 300

Kenosha, WI 53140

262.653.4000

KENOSHA – The Kenosha Hometown Heroes Commission is pleased to announce Gary W. Beltoya as the Kenosha Hometown Hero for the First Quarter of 2024. Beltoya was honored during the April 1, 2024 Common Council meeting.

The Kenosha Hometown Heroes Commission created this program to identify and recognize as Hometown Heroes worthy men and women, who have served or are currently serving in the United States Armed Forces, for their outstanding personal achievements and the positive contributions they make to the Kenosha community. Those honored must be born in, currently reside in, or have previously resided for ten years or more at any time, in the City of Kenosha.

The First Quarter award winner was a US Army Specialist 5 and served from 1966 through 1968. He has received the National Defense Service Medal, the Parachute Badge, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Basic Training Code of Conduct, and Basic Airborne. In addition, he received recognition from the State-USIA Recreation Association for his part in their Rape Prevention and Self-Defense Seminars.

As a member of the Southern Wisconsin All Airborne Chapter 82nd Airborne Division, Beltoya served as the unit's Chaplain and also assisted with all fundraising efforts conducted by this group to raise funds for wounded veterans returning from the Iraq/Afghanistan combat areas. He is a constant and important part of the SE WI AAC efforts to raise funds to directly help veterans returning from combat with multiple debilitating wounds. All monies collected go directly to the veteran to aid in their rehabilitation. His contributions improve the life of returning veterans and aid in getting the message out to the community about the dedication and service of all armed forces veterans.

He also leads veterans and civilians in song at the Hero's Cafe in Festival Foods and at many different veteran related ceremonies throughout Kenosha. Having live music at events brings a much greater sense of meaning to them and he willingly performs the National Anthem, America the Beautiful, the five Service Branch Anthems, and many other songs in all types of weather and conditions without complaint. In addition, Beltoya volunteers to assist with whatever needs to be done at many organizations.

The Hometown Heroes Commission recognizes Beltoya for his outstanding U.S. Military Service, personal achievements, and positive contributions to the Kenosha community.