



Guantanamo Bay Gazette

MCPON Michael Stevens Visits GTMO



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (AW/NAC) Michael D. Stevens talks to Port Operations Sailors during his visit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Feb. 14. Photo by Public Affairs Office Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Thomas L. Rosprim

Office of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON)(AW/NAC) Mike D. Stevens completed a three-day trip to Naval Air Station (NAS) Jacksonville and Naval Base Guantanamo Bay Cuba (GTMO) February 15.

MCPON participated in CPO 365 events, toured base facilities, took the opportunity to discuss the focus areas of his “Zeroing in on Excellence” initiative, and answered questions about new uniforms, budget cuts, Family Readiness Group, the Performance to Serve program, and deployments during base-wide all hands calls.

CPO 365, a year-long development and training for First Class Petty Officers, was first introduced in 2010 under former MCPON Rick West. It includes two phases, the first of which begins in September each year. Under MCPON Steven’s revised program, detailed in his 2012-2013 CPO 365 Guidance, all First Class Petty Officers will participate through the duration of Phase One, whether they are board-eligible or not.

“CPO 365 is so important for the future development of our First Class Petty Officers. “I believe that if you’re going to lead the future force of our Navy that you must be armed with the best opportunities to succeed,” said Stevens.

CPO 365 is designed to develop leaders through a combination of

mentorship, practical experience and training.

“I view this training as our most creative avenue to productively engage Chiefs with petty officers and junior officers, and to form enduring relationships characterized by mutual respect,” said Stevens.

MCPON talked about the importance of effective leadership during a CPO 365 training session in GTMO.

“As you go through CPO 365, you will become a more effective leader. If everything we do starts and stops with leadership, then every Sailor will benefit from a more effective leader.”

He also discussed the value of the Navy’s leading petty officers.

“We must have exceptional leading petty officers, because you are one of the critical components to the engine that makes the Navy run,” said Stevens.

Many Sailors showed concern about the looming fiscal environment. MCPON recognized the challenges the Navy is currently facing, but asked that Sailors focus on controlling what we own.

“It is easy to become distracted by things that are beyond our control,” said Stevens. He also reminded Sailors of the things they do own and control; such as technical training, administrative production, and the execution of orders. “We also have the ability to control much of our own lives by becoming and remaining physically, mentally, morally, and spiritually sound.”

Fleet engagements are intended to provide senior leadership with a frontline assessment of Sailors and what they are doing in the Fleet.

Panetta Issues Message to DOD Workforce on Sequestration

With major, across-the-board defense spending cuts scheduled to take effect March 1, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta today issued a message to the Defense Department workforce.

Here is the secretary's message:

For more than a year and a half, the president, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and I have repeatedly voiced our deep concerns over the half a trillion dollars in automatic across-the-board cuts that would be imposed under sequestration and the severe damage that would do both to this department and to our national defense.

The administration continues to work with Congress to reach agreement on a balanced deficit reduction plan to avoid these cuts. Meanwhile, because another trigger for sequestration is approaching on March 1, the department's leadership has begun extensive planning on how to implement the required spending reductions. Those cuts will be magnified because the department has been forced to operate under a six-month continuing resolution that has already compelled us to take steps to reduce spending.

In the event of sequestration we will do everything we can to be able to continue to perform our core mission of providing for the security of the United States, but there is no mistaking that the rigid nature of the cuts forced upon this department, and their scale, will result in a serious erosion

of readiness across the force.

I have also been deeply concerned about the potential direct impact of sequestration on you and your families. We are doing everything possible to limit the worst effects on DoD personnel - but I regret that our flexibility within the law is extremely limited. The president has used his legal authority to exempt military personnel funding from sequestration, but we have no legal authority to exempt civilian personnel funding from reductions. As a result, should sequestration occur and continue for a substantial period, DoD will be forced to place the vast majority of its civilian workforce on administrative furlough.

Today, I notified Congress that furloughs could occur under sequestration. I can assure you that, if we have to implement furloughs, all affected employees will be provided at least 30 days' notice prior to executing a furlough and your benefits will be protected to the maximum extent possible. We also will work to ensure that furloughs are executed in a consistent and appropriate manner, and we will also continue to engage in discussions with employee unions as appropriate.

Working with your component heads and supervisors, the department's leaders will continue to keep you informed. As we deal with these difficult issues, I want to thank you for your patience, your hard work, and your continued dedication to our mission of protecting the country.

Our most important asset at the department is our world-class personnel. You are fighting every day to keep our country strong and secure, and rest assured that the leaders of this department will continue to fight with you and for you.



**MASTER-AT-ARMS
3RD CLASS**

**RICO
LOZA**

- **Job/Department:** Security
- **Age:** 25
- **Hometown:** Santa Cruz, Calif.
- **Favorite Hobby:** Drawing
- **Favorite Movie:** Inception
- **Favorite Musician:** The Black Keys
- **Favorite Quote:** "Just keep swimming"
- **Favorite Book:** Eric Pearl "The Reconnection"
- **Currently Working On:** Continued Education
- **Greatest Accomplishment:** Earning my Bachelors Degree
- **How Has The Navy Improved His Life:** Provided an opportunity to do things I wouldn't normally have a chance to do
- **Sailor of the Week Because:** Achieved patrol certification for his Military Working Dog Team. Additionally, he established and coordinated an advancement study group for department personnel.



Naval Station Guantanamo Bay Supports Military Saves Campaign

Kelly Wirfel

NS Guantanamo Bay Public Affairs Officer

Key leaders from Naval Station (NS) Guantanamo Bay have partnered with Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) to support and promote Military Saves Week, Feb. 25 through March 2.

Since 2007, the Military Saves campaign has educated service members throughout the Department of Defense in sound financial principals to foster personal financial readiness.

“Although saving should be a year round goal, DoD’s intent is to highlight and focus attention on saving during this dedicated week,” said Fleet and Family Support Center Command Financial Specialist, Walter Barrett. “At the command level our goal is to enlighten, encourage and educate our military community in the various ways to save.”

Military Saves is part of the Department of Defense’s Financial Readiness Campaign and has been a partner with DoD since 2003. Military Saves is a social marketing campaign to persuade, motivate, and encourage military families to save money every month, and to convince leaders and organizations to be aggressive in promoting automatic savings.

Enrollment in savings-related military benefits including the Thrift Savings Plan and Savings Deposit Program is also encouraged during Military Saves Week.

The theme for this year’s campaign is “Set a Goal, Make a Plan, Save Automatically” which reinforces the importance of planning ahead and setting and sticking to a budget.

Service members are also encouraged to register and complete the “Saver Pledge” at www.militarysaves.org, which measures Department of Defense wide participation in Military Saves Week. Those who take the pledge are also eligible to get a free

credit report and score. This Web site also features a monthly newsletter that offers informative articles and links to additional resources.

NS Guantanamo Bay’s FFSC will have information tables at the NEX atrium throughout the week and are also offering a budgeting class Friday, March 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Service members or dependents that would like more information about resources and services offered through Military Saves, or organizations who would like to find out how they can support the program, should contact FFSC at 4141. FFSC can provide education to personnel, either on a one-on-one basis or through group presentations.



NS Guantanamo Bay Commanding Officer, Capt. J.R. Nettleton signs the Proclamation announcing Feb. 25 through March 2 as Military Saves Week. Also pictured are Fleet and Family Support Center Director Kathy Selves and Command Financial Specialist Walter Barrett.



Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Van Dickens

NS Guantanamo Bay Command Chaplain

How Do You Feed Your Spirit?

Lately, I’ve been traveling back and forth from GTMO to the states. As is often the case, the Saturday rotator offers the opportunity to watch free video and movies, if you are so inclined. I found the movie Dark Knight Rises and decided to watch it. Unfortunately, I only got two thirds of the way through when our flight landed. On the return flight, I found it again and tried to watch the entire movie since it began a little sooner upon take off, but again we landed before the movie was over. The third time I flew, I noticed others watching the movie, but I had learned my lesson. I finally rented the movie and watched the dramatic conclusion at home.

Not knowing the ending of a good story can be very frustrating. It’s sort of like listening to Beethoven’s 5th Symphony and hearing the famous “Dit Dit Dit Daaah,” only

without the “Daaah.” While you and I don’t know all the future turns and twists to our life’s journey, we can know how it will turn out. We can know by the kind of life we choose to live, and from where we draw our strength. One of my favorite foods is pond-raised, grain fed, whole fried catfish. I know how they will taste because I know how they were raised and what they ate. How were you raised? What (or Who) feeds your spirit? It determines how you will turn out.

Blessings,
Chaps
CAPT Van Dickens
NAVSTA Command Chaplain





MWR Hosts Mardi Gras Events

MCC(SW/AW) Keith Bryska

Gazette Editor

Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) hosted Mardi Gras weekend at Naval Station (NS) Guantanamo Bay, Cuba Feb.16-17. The events included a Mardi Gras themed party at the Tiki Bar and a family day at the Youth Center. Both events include a live Cajun band from New Orleans and plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy.

At the Youth Center the kids enjoyed many activities such as bounce houses, water slides, and Sumo wrestling. Families also had the opportunity to win a cake while playing musical chairs or take time to enjoy a snow cone and a bag of popcorn.



Havana Restores Monument to USS Maine Victims

Peter Orsi

The Associated Press

It was a little before 10 p.m. that February night in 1898 when a fiery explosion roiled the normally calm waters of Havana Harbor, blowing out windows in the city and sinking the USS Maine to the bottom of the bay, just the mast and some twisted metal wreckage left to poke above the waves.

Havana's monument to the 266 U.S. sailors who died that night was dedicated 27 years later as a tribute to lasting Cuban-American friendship, a thank-you for Washington's help in shedding the yoke of Spanish colonial rule, which was known for its cruelty.

But the years since have been unkind to the twin-columned monument, and to U.S.-Cuba ties. While relations between Washington and Havana remain in a deep freeze, the monument, at least, is now getting a facelift.

The restoration project is fraught with symbolism, and the monument's scars tell the story of more than a century of shifts in the complex relationship and changing interpretations of the marble structure.

"Of the monuments in Havana, that's one that really is struggling to contain all of these different historical episodes," said Timothy Hyde, a historian of Cuban architecture at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. "It doesn't just symbolize any longer this single moment of the sinking of the Maine. It symbolizes all these periodic moments of antipathy and hostility

and challenges between the two nation-states."

Soon after the USS Maine's sudden sinking off the coast of this Caribbean capital 115 years ago Friday, the United States accused Spanish colonial authorities of responsibility for the blast.

"Remember the Maine!" became a rallying cry in the States, and after the U.S. victory in the monthslong Spanish-American war, Spain ceded control over Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam.

The Maine monument was inaugurated in 1925 and bears the names of all 266 sailors. Two statues standing shoulder-to-shoulder at the base represent a maternal America guiding the maiden Cuba into independence.

Words etched into the marble quote an 1898 U.S. congressional resolution recognizing Cuba's right to be free, and the massive bronze eagle that long capped the monument faced due north in a symbol of Washington's promise to return home after helping the island break from Spain.

"To me it signifies a legacy of loyalty ... friendship between two peoples," said Julio Dominguez Santos, the monument's night watchman of 17 years.

But things didn't work out as that earlier Congress had hoped. Many Cubans resented the 1901 Platt Amendment, which said Washington retained the right to intervene militarily as a condition of ending the postwar U.S. occupation.

The U.S. did in fact intervene several times, and American business and mafia gangs came to dominate many aspects of the island in the run-up to the 1959 revolution - leading many Cubans to feel like the eagle had never flown back north.

Soon after Fidel Castro's rebels marched victoriously into Havana, the tense marriage rapidly careened toward divorce and diplomatic ties were severed in 1961. Following the doomed, U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion months later, the more than 3-ton eagle was ripped from the monument during an anti-American protest and splintered into pieces.

"The eagle was torn down after the triumph of the revolution because it's the symbol of imperialism, the United States, and the revolution ended all that," said Ernesto Moreno, a 77-year-old Havana resident who remembers

waking up one day and seeing the statue gone. "I found it to be a very good thing, and I think most Cubans agreed at the time."

Castro's government added a new inscription to the base of the broken monument alleging the Maine victims had been "sacrificed by imperialist greed in its zeal to seize the island of Cuba," a reference to speculation that the U.S. deliberately blew up the Maine to justify a war against Spain.

Historians say the explosion was probably an accidental ignition of the Maine's own munitions, but the conspiracy theory still commonly circulates in Cuba even among the intellectual class and official media.

Communist Party newspaper Granma has written that the Maine victims were "immolated to serve as a pretext for American intervention that in 1898 prevented the island from gaining true independence" - ignoring the fact that Cuban rebels had failed to oust the Spanish on their own for decades.

The Maine eagle's head was mysteriously delivered to Swiss diplomats, who had agreed to act as protectors of U.S. property in Cuba. Today it hangs in a conference room at the U.S. Interests Section, which Washington maintains in Havana instead of an embassy.

After relations were partially re-established in 1977, longtime foreign service officer Wayne Smith, who had been in Havana in 1961, returned and arranged to see the body, wings and tail, which are currently out of sight in a musty storage room of the Havana City History Museum.

"I have been the faithful custodian of the body," City Historian Eusebio Leal, told The Associated Press. "Smith told me that until the body and the head are reunited, there won't be good relations between Cuba and the United States."

U.S. diplomats also possess the monument's original eagle, toppled by a hurricane in 1926. Since 1954 that earlier bird has presided over the immaculate gardens of the Interests Section chief's official residence.

A plaque at the base calls the eagle "a symbol of the enduring friendship" between Cuba and the U.S.

"I'm just happy we have it. I don't know how it got here. Somebody got ahold of it, saw it and gave it to us," said John Caulfield, the Interests Section chief since 2011.

Coincidentally, the U.S. State Department recently sent two specialists down to repair the first eagle, which was cracked and tarnished green.

Like many structures in Havana, the monument on the seafront Malecon boulevard had become seedy from decades of neglect. Marble lion heads were damaged or looted, and the fountains used as trash receptacles by passers-by.

Workers in blue jumpers recently removed scaffolding that had shrouded the columns for months, revealing gleaming-white marble scrubbed clean of grime. Gone are the rusty stains beneath the two 10-inch guns that were salvaged from the Maine. The statues are a lustrous bronze again after corrosive salt air turned them bright green for years.

Leal said his office, which has restored hundreds of historic structures in recent decades, intends to finish remaining tasks like getting the fountains working and re-landscaping two adjacent plazas in the coming months.

Amid the ongoing renovation, a return to the monument's original spirit of friendship seems unlikely - at least for now.

"Certainly we have as much wish for that to be true today as we did at the time," Caulfield said of the U.S. resolution inscribed on the monument proclaiming Cuba has the right to be free. "I hope that we and the Cubans will see a new relationship with the United States that allows those words to be true. "Leal said he too hopes for warmer ties, but first Washington must end the 51-year economic embargo and abolish "anti-Cuban" laws. Can he envision a bronze eagle resuming its perch someday atop the twice-decapitated monument?

"On the occasion of a friendly visit by a U.S. president," Leal said. "I wish President Obama would be the one to do that."

GTMO SHOPPER

E-mail classified ad submissions to PAO-CLASSIFIEDADS@USNBGTMO.NAVY.MIL

If sent to any other e-mail, it may not be published. Submit your ad NLT noon Wednesdays for that week's Gazette. Ads are removed after two weeks. Re-submit the ad to re-publish. The Gazette staff and NS Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, page. The Public Affairs Office has final editorial discretion on all content. Call MCC Keith Bryska at 4520 with your questions or concerns. Please keep ads to a minimum of 5 items.

VEHICLES

'89 Chevy Blazer, black, runs great, great for scuba gear. \$2000 OBO. Call Chris work 4664, home 77748, cell 55150

'96 Dodge Dakota, automatic, 62k, new serpentine belt and idler pulley. Yokohama Geolander tires 7 months old/ pioneer stereo/speakers with iPod connection. \$1950 OBO. Call 73871

'10 Honda Fit Sport, 9K, mint condition. \$16k OBO. Call 78425

'03 Saab 9-5 Wagon, \$10K, 55,700 miles, immaculate condition, leather interior, climate control (works great), Automatic. Call 75575

'11 Vespa Scooter, \$6K, 846 miles, 49cc (motor safety course not required), Immaculate condition, chrome cargo rack, garage-kept. Call 75575

'94 GMC Sierra 1500 Truck 6 cyl. Automatic, Very reliable and well maintained. Cold air. \$1750. Call 78180

'08 silver Dodge caliber SXT5sp manual, 15,600 miles, \$10K (OBO) excellent condition and price call 78851

'06 Chevy Aveo \$5,000 34k miles. call Matt 77911

'98 Toyota Camry LE, model excellent condition with 126000 miles only, new shocks, new timing belt, new water body new brakes, does not need any repair except oil change periodically Reduced to \$4700 OBO. Call x 75565

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

End Tables (QTY 2) - \$20 each
 Desk with drawers - \$75
 SCSI Modem - \$40
 HP PSC 1510 All-in-One Printer/Scanner/Copier - \$30
 Lots of Women's Jewelry from my personal collection! - \$5 & up
 Kenmore Canister Vacuum & extra bags - \$25
 Tablecloths: \$5 square or plastic, \$10 oblong cloth
 Safety 1st Child/Pet Gate - \$15
 Cordless Phone with answering machine and extra handset/base: \$30
 Cordless Phone with answering machine - \$25
 Motorola Cordless Phone - \$20

Assorted household items & decorative pieces- \$5 & up
 Call Aileen 8592 or 77805

Smoking grill \$40. Queen size, mattress, box and frame \$150. Call 84784

Double size mattress, box springs and hollywood frame, \$25. Call 79514

40-inch Coby flatscreen TV-\$300, SCSI modem and router-\$100 or \$60 each, Dehumidifier-\$60, 3-drawer storage-\$10, Shark vacuum-\$15, Wooden TV stand-\$25, and lots of other little stuff, check it out. Call before 1 March 73803.

OUTDOOR REC

Dive Gear (gently used and impeccably maintained):
 Women's Genesis Athena BCD with ScubaPro Air II: \$300
 ScubaPro MK16 + S550 regulator set: \$20 Uwatec Smart Com Dive Computer (not air integrated) - \$275
 A.B. Biller 42" Padauk Wood Spear Gun with extra band: \$150
 Men's 3mm wetsuit: \$50
 Underwater Kinetics knife: \$40
 Low-volume dive mask (new) - \$35
 Call Aileen 8592 or 77805

Marin Bear Valley Mountain Bike \$250/BO, Size-Small Frame-Chromoly, Speed - 9-speed, 11 - 32 teeth. Call 55166

17' Center Console, Johnson 90hp - comes with new paint, custom T-top, live-well bench seat, Garmin Depth/Fish Finder and Hummingbird Depth/Fish Finder/GPS. \$6,500 OBO. Phone - 4857 or 77677 for more details and/or appointment.
 22' Cabin Cuddy, OMC 175hp E-Tech - this boat is being completely rebuilt EVERYTHING will be brand new except the VHF Radio \$11,000 OBO. ** FREE ** 90' F-150 Crew Cab - that's right, free w/ purchase of boat. \$1,500 if sold separately. Phone - 4857 or 77677 for more details and/or appointment.

Snorkeling kit \$50 comes with mask/ snorkel/fins/men's size 12 boots.
 Two modems \$45 and \$35, Office desk \$15. DVDs & Xbox games \$2 a piece.
 Iron/ironing board \$20, lamp, patio furniture, golf clubs and more - all negotiable
 Call matt at 77911

MISC

Beautiful Potted Plants!: \$5 & up
 Lawnmower (includes gas can) \$100, Weedeater (includes gas can) \$30 Call Aileen 8592 or 77805

FOUND: electronic device found Sunday, Feb 17 at the Windmill beach cabanas near the new showers. To claim, call 77168.

Missing iPhone 5 from Marine Hill, reward if found. Call Chris Bosson 4645.

YARD SALE

23 Feb. 7-11am, multi family, Paola/ Radio Point Housing

23 Feb. Caribbean Circle 35 C from 7-11am. Many baby items, charcoal grill, men's, women's and boys clothing (12-24 months). Shoes, cowboy boots, luggage, crockpot, three digital cameras, and MP3 player.

23 Feb. Paola Point 6, baby items only. 7-10am.

23 Feb. VL19A from 0830-1030.

The SCOOP



SAFE RIDE

Out drinking? Put the keys down and call Safe Ride at 84913 or 84781. Don't drink and drive.

BLACK AND GOLD BALL

The Black Heritage Organization will be holding the Black and Gold Ball Feb. 23 at the Windjammer Ballroom. Tickets are \$35. To purchase ticket call 78086 or 79449.

SEABEE BALL

Feb. 23 is your last chance to buy tickets for the Seabee Ball, Tickets will be sold at the NEX Atrium from 9am-12pm. The Ball will be on the March 2.

GTMO ORIENTATION

Fleet and Family Support Center will be hosting an orientation brief to all new base residents Feb. 28. from 8:15-11:15 am. This is a great way to learn about key resources, receive a tour of the base and meet other residents. To register call 4141

GTMO JOB HUNT

SCSI Hiring
 Customer Service Representative
 Full time
scsi@nsgtmo.com
 Call 77360

BREMCOR Hiring 2 positions for US EXPAT on island or conus hires:
 Facilities Maintenance Dept. Manager
 HVAC Supervisor
 Contact estead@roe.com

Recreation Asst. Lifeguard - Flex
 Recreation Asst. Lifeguard - Full Time
 Bartender - O'Kellys - Flex
 Bartender - Flex
 CYP Asst- Flex
 CYP Asst- Full Time
 CYP Ops Clerk - Flex
 Food Service Worker - Flex
 Lead CYP Asst. - Full Time
 Accounting Tech. - Flex
 Electrician- Full Time
 Maintenance Mechanic - Full Time
 Rec Aid Bingo Caller - Flex
 Recreation Asst.. - Full Time
 HR Specialist - Full Time
 ID Checker - Flex

Job Descriptions can be found on MWR's Job Wall next to the NAF HR office, Bldg. 760. FMI, call 74121

Social Services Assistant
 Comfortable working with a diverse population
 Must be fluent in Spanish
 Full time and part time positions available
 Local hires only - G4 position,
 one year fixed term contract
 Call 74788 FMI

Burns and Roe Services Hiring
 Ground Support Equipment Maint. Shop Supervisor
 Ground Electronics Maint. Supervisor
 Ground Electronics Maint. Technician
 For consideration please send resume to: mveditz@brgtmo.com.

MOVIES DOWNTOWN LYCEUM

FRIDAY Feb. 22

7 p.m.: Escape from Planet Earth PG 95 min.
 9 p.m.: A Good Day to Die Hard R 97 min.

SATURDAY Feb. 23

7 p.m.: The Last Stand (New) R 107 min.
 9 p.m.: Django Unchained(Last) R 166 min.

SUNDAY Feb. 24

7 p.m.: Mama (New) PG13 100 min.

MONDAY Feb. 25

7 p.m.: Silver Linings Play (Last) R 122 min.

TUESDAY Feb. 26

7 p.m.: Broken City R 109 min.

WEDNESDAY Feb.27

7 p.m.: Zero Dark Thirty R 160 min.

THURSDAY Feb. 28

7 p.m.: Jack Reacher (Last) PG13 130 min.

CALL THE MOVIE HOTLINE @ 4880

Girl Scouts Host Father/Daughter Dance

MCC Keith Bryska

Gazette Editor

Girl Scout Service Unit 085 held a father/daughter dance for residents of Naval Station (NS) Guantanamo Bay, Feb. 16. The dance was held as part of Valentine's Day festivities for the Girl Scouts.

"As a uniformed service member we make several sacrifices in our service. One of those sacrifices is leaving our loved ones behind to perform missions or deployments. Like many of us, I have missed many birthdays, anniversaries and milestones in the life of my children," said Chief Electronics Technician Rolando Robles. "While I'm home, I take every advantage to enjoy the love I share with my children. When daddy's little girl says, "Daddy, I want to go to the dance with you," you can't decline."

According to Girl Scout Troop Leader Vicki Vargas it is important for the unit to host this and other events that allow the girls to show our Guantanamo Bay family that they enjoy giving back to the community by bringing people together which makes GTMO a better place for everyone.

"I enjoyed watching all the smiles on everyone's faces, letting me know that they were having a good time," said Vargas. "That is how I knew we did a good thing for our GTMO family."

When asked what she enjoyed about the night Robles' daughter Catherine replied "I liked all of it, I enjoyed dancing and being with my father and I really liked the sparkling juice toast."

The night was filled with dancing and laughing and the girls had plenty of snacks to include brownies, cake and candy hearts. At the end of the night the dad's showed their appreciation for their daughters by toasting to them while telling them how much they meant to them.

"I have a strong appreciation of the love and affection that my eight year old daughter has for me at this point in her life, I am her hero and best friend," said Robles. "As she grows in her life, she will grow to have other interests and eventually have another love in life, but right now there is only daddy and I'm here for her."



Catherine Robles gives her dad Chief Electronics Technician Rolando Robles a kiss in appreciation for coming to the dance, Feb. 16.

