



# THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD

MAY 2024

BLACK KNIGHTS

REIGN!



G  
O  
  
A  
R  
M  
Y



G  
O  
  
A  
R  
M  
Y

**The Black Knights are your Houston ISD Superintendent's Cup winners in back-to-back years. Director of Army Instruction, LTC Cornell McGhee, presents Houston MSTC with the coveted trophy.**

**"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"**





Hard work does indeed pay off. This school year, the Black Knights were first place overall in Armed Drill, Unarmed Drill, Primary Color Guard, Secondary Color Guard, Female Physical Fitness, and Male Physical Fitness. Thank you to all the supporters at Houston MSTC from teachers, students, and administrators. The Black Knights will defend the title for a third consecutive year in 2024-2025. **LOOK OUT!**

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN



Graduating senior Frank Barajas celebrating another year of accomplishing a very difficult task. He has enlisted into the United States Army as a personnel specialist and will be stationed in Germany for three years upon completing his training. **FEELS GOOD!**



What most don't see is what happens before competitions. Coaches Adam and Sabrina Obregon and Coach Zack Enriques pushed cadets to peak performance. It takes a village!

**"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"**



## THE BLACK AND GOLD BALL

On April 13, 2024, the Black Knights hosted the annual Black and Gold Ball at the VFW Post 581. The military ball is designed to be a celebration of the year's accomplishments within the battalion and award deserving cadets. It is also an opportunity to thank the seniors for their years of service to the battalion.



Jim "Mattress Mack" McIngvale, owner of Gallery Furniture served as the guest speaker. He gave a passionate speech on patriotism and service to country where he discussed a friend of his who is a World War II veteran. He commented that Houston MSTC gets bad press, but he encouraged people to talk more about the students that were in attendance, CADETS! Mattress Mack has provided great support to the Black Knights this school year and we hope to continue working with him in the future.

### TRADITION

At formal events such as this, the oldest "Soldier" and youngest "Soldier/cadet" make the initial cut into the cake. This year, Major Ray cut the cake with 15-year-old Nayeli Davila who has also been the number one freshman cadet in the battalion. You will see more of her in the very near future.



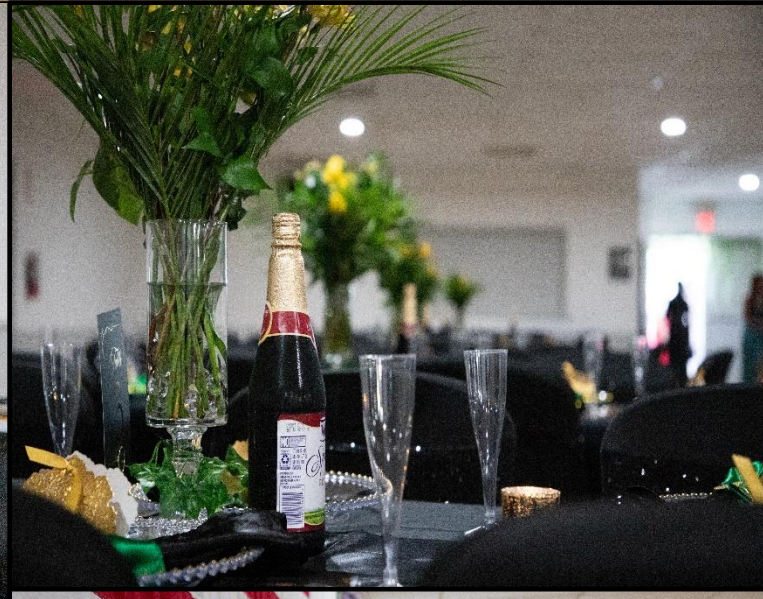
**"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"**



# A JOYOUS AFFAIR

The American Legion, AUSA, and various civic oriented clubs presented awards to deserving cadets who performed well not only in competitions, but those who also performed well in the classroom. Commander Dwight Rumph of the American Legion Post 586 presented 16 awards to include certificates to those who attended Texas Boys State in 2023.

Cadets worked hard all year to make this battalion the best it could possibly be and we look forward to those returning next year to take it to the next level.



## THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT!

Ms. Candace Watson Mack supported the cadets by providing a detailed decorations plan. The cadets helped her set the mood using her vision and expertise to make the event special. The booster club parents also supported by adding a fruit table and providing sparkling grape juice for the toast.

Lastly, the Black Knights would like to thank Ms. Lewis and the culinary team at Barbara Jordan for preparing the delicious meal and serving it. This was truly a team-oriented event.



**"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"**





# PATRIOT COUNTRY



## STRENGTH STARTS HERE!

In April, the Black Knights went on tour visiting their feeder pattern schools: Burbank, Fonville, and Patrick Henry Middle Schools. Simply put, the Black Knights asked 8<sup>th</sup> graders to consider joining the Army JROTC program. Here are the results of kids who signed up:

Burbank: 75 students  
Fonville: 66 students  
Henry: 39 students  
Total: 180 incoming freshmen

The Black Knights believe students greatly benefit by joining the program. **Welcome!**

## FROM WEST POINT BACK TO SAM HOUSTON



The Black Knights are always happy to welcome home their previous battalion commander, Erik Jimenez. He is a freshman at the United States Military Academy returning home for a short vacation to visit family and friends. He visited with his former battalion to spread the good word about all the possibilities that are available to them and share his experiences of living in upstate New York.

He has been an inspiration to the cadets with some following in his footsteps. Wish him good luck on his journey.

**“TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS”**





Director Tudon Martinez met with Black Knights at Patrick Henry in April. He thanked them for what they. Below, cadet in class learned how to read a map while marksmanship team members are practicing for next year.



**“TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS”**





## THE COMMANDER BIDS FAREWELL

Time just seemed to be going slow-  
 Enclosed in the mind of a bird who had no  
 encouragement to try to fly,  
 Living everyday in no fear of the outside world  
 But, scared of its own capabilities of venturing further,  
 Only representing the common good  
 Surrounded by “vultures” who soon-  
 Become the defenders and companions of those who are  
 Stranded and entrapped by the thoughts and eyes hiding  
 away ready to pounce.

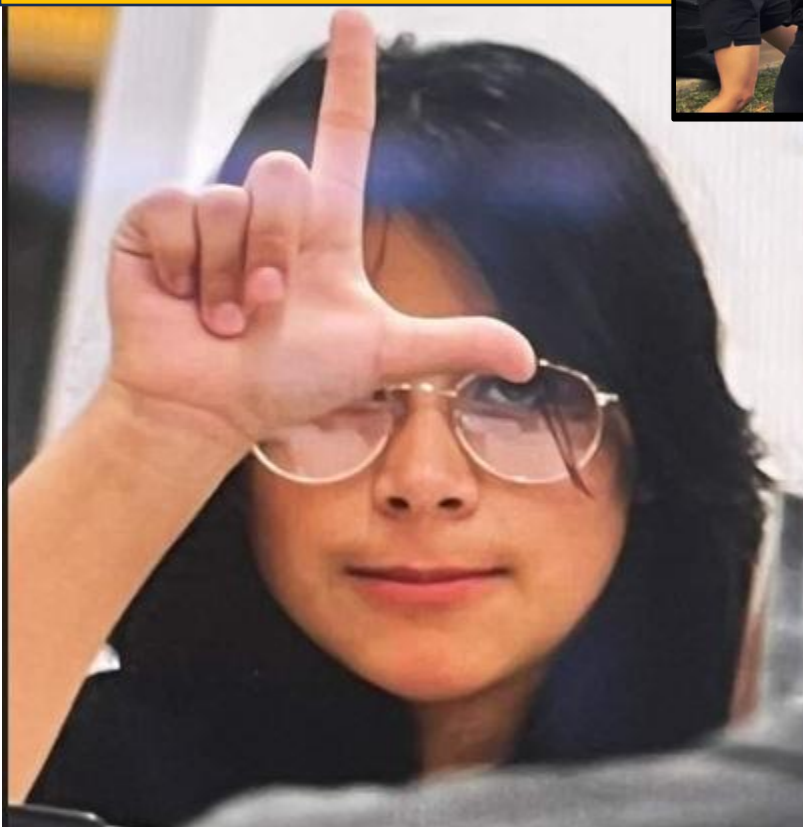
## THE COMMANDER BIDS FAREWELL

They say, “Times always change”.  
 Although, they fail to consider the possibility,  
 That we are the ones growing – because you see,  
 Time is never limited-  
 The opportunities will never short-  
 I’ve learned to break free from the cage of comfort,  
 Grabbing onto every opportunity to be with y’all  
 It can’t be compared to the life of before.  
 As now I can say without a doubt,  
 That y’all are my home.



## THE COMMANDER BIDS FAREWELL

Developing throughout the years  
 I’ve come to see....  
 Although, I like the comfort of my bed, I would choose the  
 adventure of service, leading, and drilling  
 Over the years of not having the memories of the present  
 I’m not one to love mornings, but I wake up ready to see  
 y’all-  
 Today I leave the flock  
 Of course, will a proper good-bye  
 As a farewell to the wonderful months and years  
 NOT given up, but consciously used for the best  
 I will always care for you “Dodos” 🐘  
 Lastly, I’m not one to show affection – but  
 “I love you”



**“TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS”**