



# News Release

ORANGE COUNTY/INLAND  
EMPIRE DISTRICT OFFICE

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**Contact:** [Sheree.Coates@sba.gov](mailto:Sheree.Coates@sba.gov) (714) 560-7466

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**Internet Address:** <http://www.sba.gov/ca/santa>  
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## **Manny Montanez, President & CEO, EG Montanez Construction, Inc. Selected as 2020 Veteran Champion of the Year**

*Service-Disabled Veteran Owned General Contractor Focuses on Safety & Integrity*

**SANTA ANA, Calif.** – The U.S. Small Business Administration, Orange County / Inland Empire District Office has selected Manny Montanez, President and CEO of EG Montanez Construction, Inc., as our 2020 Veteran Champion of the Year. Montanez was nominated for the award by Ted Fuentes, President/CEO/Owner of Alliance Resource Group, Inc. of Irvine, Calif.

Based in Trabuco Canyon, Calif., EG Montanez Construction, Inc. is a commercial and industrial general contractor, who focusses on delivering quality general contracting services to the federal government, military installations, universities, and public works agencies throughout California. Construction services include general contracting, HVAC, roofing, site concrete, construction management, tenant improvements, and modernization and site development. Recent projects completed by EG Montanez Construction, Inc. include laboratory renovation and flooring installation at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, student housing renovation at California State University, Northridge, and roof installation for Southern California Edison.

Born in Billings, Mont., and growing up in a construction family, Montanez always dreamed of running his own construction business. But, as often is the case, life got in the way . . . at least for a while. After his first year of college and at the height of the Vietnam War, Montanez enlisted in the United States Army. While serving as a tank commander assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Montanez was severely wounded in combat on January 8, 1969. Montanez was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor and the Purple Heart, but it would be over a year before he could walk again.

After his recovery, but still physically limited, Montanez went back to college at the University of Denver, where he studied business and finance. Montanez's path took him into the banking and insurance industries, and he spent over twenty-one years working for MetLife Capital. But, years later, during a visit to the VA Medical Center in Long Beach, Calif., Montanez learned that the Department of Veterans Affairs was actively searching for disabled veteran owned contractors. So, in 2009, Montanez formed EG Montanez Construction, Inc.

Starting a new company was difficult and there are still challenges, particularly when there is a shortage of work, but insurance, licensing, and other costs must be paid. Still, Montanez has grown EG Montanez Construction, Inc. to five employees, with an estimated annual revenue of \$3-\$5 million. And under Montanez's leadership, the company is very well positioned. While COVID-19 certainly affected business this year through project delays and other disruptions, the company was fortunate enough to be able to support its employees without having to take on additional debt.

Montanez's success over the years has allowed him to pursue his other passions, like giving back to the community and doing volunteer work to help those less fortunate than him. He remains active and engaged with the disabled veteran community by donating his time, money, and resources to support veterans. Montanez has served on the board of the Disabled Veteran Business Alliance and was formerly the vice president of its Orange County Chapter. He is currently on the legislative committee for CalVet's Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE) Advisory Council.

Montanez also serves as president and CEO of the Fruitful Futures Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping homeless veterans across the United States. The organization is made up of volunteers, like Montanez, who help assist veterans with a variety of issues, including accessing healthcare, jobs, education, and VA benefits.

Additionally, Montanez has served as a board member for the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) and he has twice chaired the CHOC Walk, CHOC's largest annual fundraiser. Montanez has supported the Orangewood Children and Family Center, chairing their first ever Promise Ride to raise funds for the Orangewood Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports current and former foster youth in Orange County, Calif.

The SBA Orange County / Inland Empire District is honored to recognize Manny Montanez as our 2020 Veteran Champion of the Year.

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### **About the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and is a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build, and grow businesses, and recover from disasters. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. To learn more about SBA, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

### **About the Orange County / Inland Empire District Office**

The Orange County / Inland Empire District Office, under the leadership and vision of J. Adalberto Quijada, District Director, is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs and services in the Southern California counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. Located in Santa Ana near John Wayne Airport, the office and its staff facilitate understanding and access to SBA loan programs; coordinate and conduct hundreds of training sessions and special events annually such as matchmaking forums and loan workshops; and manage a portfolio of nearly 100 businesses enrolled in the agency's 8(a) business development program.