

JOSEPH D. HELTON, JR MEMORIAL AWARD



Pictured from left to right are:

2d Lt James Scott, USAF 6 SFS, Wing Escort Officer; LTC Jim Griffin, President, Tampa Chapter; Mrs. Jennifer (Jiffy) Helton, mother; Mrs. Jeanne McManus, sister; Miss Jessica Helton, sister; 1st Lt Cody Holland, USAF Joseph Helton's classmate at AFA

The Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) announced the establishment of the Joseph D. Helton, Jr. Award. 1st Lt. Joseph D. Helton, Jr. was assigned to the 6th Security Forces Squadron and was subsequently deployed to Iraq, where he served as Commander, Detachment 2 Flight, 732d Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, USAF. On September 8, 2009 he died of wounds when enemy forces attacked his vehicle with an improvised explosive device near Baghdad. He was the first security forces officer to give his life in support of the war on terrorism. He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor and the Purple Heart. In recognition of his clever resourcefulness, astute professionalism and eager willingness to assist their organization, the Tampa Chapter of MOAA was proud to institute

the Joseph D. Helton, Jr. Award to honor his memory, outstanding service to country and his ultimate sacrifice.

The intent of this award is to recognize individuals assigned to MacDill AFB who have rendered outstanding assistance to the chapter enabling it to better achieve its mission and goals. The award will be presented periodically to individuals who assist the chapter with the same outgiving spirit of professionalism, cooperation and innate efficiency that were the exceptional traits of Lt. Helton.

While assigned to the 6th Security Forces Squadron, Lt. Helton aided the chapter by developing coherent procedures that complied with base entry requirements for guests. When Security Forces changed the criteria for base entry requirements, Lt. Helton assisted by suggesting methods that enabled the chapter to readily comply with these procedures. As a result, guests to chapter functions are admitted on base promptly and without difficulty. On his own initiative, he made several other pertinent recommendations that have greatly benefited the chapter's data transmission methods.

On 8 July 2010 an award ceremony was held by the Tampa Chapter at the Bayshore (formerly Officers) Club to present the initial Joseph D. Helton, Jr. award. In making the presentation, Chapter President Lieutenant Colonel Jim Griffin USA (Ret.) stated that it was by unanimous consent that the chapter board of directors voted to present this award posthumously to Lt. Helton. His mother, Mrs. Jennifer Helton and his two sisters, Mrs. Jeanne McManus and Miss Jessica Helton were present to accept this award on behalf of their extended family.