



# The Senate of The State of Texas

## Senator José Menéndez

District 26

July 23, 2020

The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy  
Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310-01

Honorable Greg Abbott  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428, Austin, Texas 78711-2428

LTC. Scott D. Mras  
Legislative Liaison to the Secretary  
101 Army Pentagon, 2E740  
Washington, D.C 20310-01

Dear Secretary McCarthy, Governor Abbott, and LTC. Scott D Mras,

For the third time in the past two months, the remains of a missing soldier have been found near Fort (Ft.) Hood. The accumulation of these events have uncovered a bigger problem at the base and invoke questions about the discipline and processes at Ft. Hood Military Base.

The current system at Ft. Hood is appalling. An in-depth examination of Ft. Hood and its leadership is imperative. As the State Senator for District 26 and the Chairman of the Senate Hispanic Caucus, I continue to stand alongside other members of Congress and the Texas Legislature to conduct an independent congressional investigation into the death of PFC. Vanessa Gullien, and now call to expand the investigation to include the deaths of PVT. Gregory Morales, and PVT. Mejhör Morta. Specifically, we would like the conducted investigation to examine the United States Army's handling of the matters in the aftermath. Anything other than a thorough transparent investigation would be a failure to the Gullien, Morales and Morta families and exacerbate the anguish and pain they are feeling.

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**Chairman Senate Hispanic Caucus**  
**Committees: Administration • Business & Commerce • Higher Education**  
**Intergovernmental Relations • Redistricting • Veterans Affairs & Border Security**



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These soldiers were willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country, and their families deserve the respect and dignity that the United States of America promised them. The events we are witnessing cannot be ignored or overlooked and swift actions need to take place to find answers that will honor these soldiers. In doing so, I intend to file legislation next session in memory of Vanessa Guillen to create an independent ombudsman's office, where soldiers can report improper abuse or advances by military members.

These families deserve full transparency and justice for the loss of their loved ones and the only way to do that is through an independent investigation. Our soldiers fight to protect our country, it is only right we fight to protect them. We appreciate your attention to this matter and do not hesitate to contact my office if any of the items above need to be discussed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "José Menéndez".

José Menéndez  
State Senator, District 26

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