

# 2020 El Paso County Veteran of the Year



Sergeant Ismael Lopez was born in Brownsville, Texas in 1984 and is the youngest of three siblings. He graduated from MacArthur High School in Irving, Texas in 2003 and after graduation went on to study Aviation Maintenance of Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 2006, he joined the United States Marine Corps and in 2009 deployed with the Marine Expeditionary Unit-11 in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Sergeant Lopez served honorably and was discharged in 2010. After his service, he graduated from California State University at San Marcos with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2015. Currently, Ismael is in pursuit of his Masters Degree in Social Work at the University of Texas at El Paso. He expects to graduate in 2022. Sergeant Ismael Lopez is

presently the Outreach Coordinator for the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors-El Paso. He coordinates outreach efforts to provide high quality, accessible, and integrated mental health care to veterans and their families throughout West Texas. Prior to his work as an outreach coordinator, Sergeant Lopez was working with veterans in various roles throughout El Paso. The work he has done with veterans and their families goes beyond his professional career. He has extensive volunteer experience with organizations including Wounded Warrior Project, Team Red White & Blue, Sierra Club, Paws Down Best Dog Training, Military Veterans Peer Network, National Alliance on Mental Illness, The Mission Continues, and the Travis Manion Foundation. In addition to his role as a father, Sergeant Lopez has focused his efforts on community engagement by coordinating annual Thanksgiving meals for veterans and their families and leading the annual Travis Manion 9/11 Heroes Run. Additionally, he has coached soccer teams at the YMCA, a City soccer team and has continued to be a leader of a Cub Scout Pack. Ismael is the proud father of a bright nine-year-old girl.