



Commander Jose Luis Betancourt, Jr., USN

Commander Jose Luis Betancourt was born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. He has been a resident of the United States since early childhood and was raised in Brownsville, Texas. He received his Bachelor's Degree, Cum Laude, from Pan American University, Edinburg, Texas, in 1970 and was commissioned Ensign, United States Naval Reserve, after completion of Officer Candidate School in 1972.

Upon receiving his commission, he was assigned as Communications Officer on board **USS FREDERICK (LST-1184)** and later served as Operations Officer until his transfer to the Department Head School, Newport, Rhode Island. After graduation, he served as Weapons Officer in **USS JOHN S. McCAIN (DDG-36)** from 1976 to 1978. After a tour of duty as Flag Lieutenant and Aide to the Commander, Naval Forces Marianas, Commander Betancourt was a student in the Command and Staff Course of the Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island. He graduated from the Naval War College in 1980 and then served as Weapons Officer in **USS WILLIAM H. STANDLEY (CG-32)** until December 1982. Following this tour, Commander Betancourt was assigned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C., where he served as a Special Assistant for Minority Affairs. He served as Executive Officer of **USS FOX (CG-33)** from March 1985 to October 1986. Commander Betancourt's second tour in Washington was to the staff of the Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, where he served as Special Assistant for Officer Programs until March 1989.

Commander Betancourt's military decorations include three awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal and others.

Commander Betancourt is married to the former Angelica Garcia of Brownsville, Texas. They have three children; Jeffrey, Richard and Jennifer.