

Biography: Hector Barajas-Varela

Hector Barajas-Varela is the director and founder of the Deported Veterans Support House in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico.

Mr. Barajas-Varela was born in Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico in 1977. He moved with his family to the U.S. at the age of seven and grew up in Compton, California. He became a lawful permanent resident (LPR) in 1992. Mr. Barajas-Varela enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1995 after graduating high school. He arrived in Fort Bragg and soon volunteered for Airborne School, serving in the 82nd Airborne from 1996 to 1999. He re-enlisted and served until his Honorable Discharge in 2001.

Mr. Barajas-Varela was deported in 2004 after serving a prison sentence in the state of California. He returned to the U.S. that same year and started a family, but was deported in 2009 for a traffic violation.

Mr. Barajas-Varela founded the Deported Veterans Support House in Tijuana in 2013, where he worked to provide support for deported veterans like himself. Since its inception, the Deported Veterans Support House has connected with hundreds of deported veterans or veterans facing deportation who served in the U.S. military.

Mr. Barajas-Varela was granted a full pardon by Governor Jerry Brown of California in 2017. He returned to America and became a U.S. citizen on April 13, 2018.

Mr. Barajas-Varela is the father of an 11-year-old daughter, Liliana Barajas. He continues to advocate for and oversee the Deported Veterans Support House.