World War II Veteran Receives His Replacement Service Medals Acting DVS Cabinet Secretary Jamison A. Herrera presented eight replacement WWII service medals to 97-year-old Army veteran Ascension J. Martinez at a presentation ceremony on October 27 in Martinez's hometown of Chimayo.

Martinez had lost track of the medals--one of which was a Bronze Star--and told his family he'd really like to see them again "before I go." (the family says he's in good health). He served in the Pacific theater of the war—helping with the liberation of the Philippines, and in Japan immediately after its surrender in September of 1945.

Secretary Herrera, who is the deputy adjutant general of the New Mexico National Guard, was emotional when he presented the medals of front of Martinez’s family and friends who had gathered at the famed Rancho de Chimayo restaurant for the ceremony.

Martinez was also presented with a WWII Veteran baseball cap—something he had mentioned to his family that he always wanted…but never got around to getting one. DVS has produced [a short video](https://youtu.be/DA7_IJqQXHM) highlighting the medal presentation.