

## Biography



Councilor Charles was elected in May 2019 to serve her first term on City Council. She has been a resident of Leon Valley since March 2013, having moved from San Antonio. Councilor Charles is a native of California but was primarily raised in Arkansas. She had four siblings, a brother still living. She was married and has one daughter and two grandchildren who live in the Houston area. She joined the U.S. Army in Los Angeles in 1965. She served 23 years active duty and reserves and was stationed in Alabama, California, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, and Texas. She is a Vietnam and Desert Storm veteran. Councilor Charles obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Therapeutic Recreation from the University of Wisconsin and was enrolled in the University of Chicago taking courses toward a Masters in Public Health. Her military mobilization and moving to Texas interrupted her plans. Councilor Charles has a long history of civic, religious, and community volunteer involvement. As a young mother, she became a volunteer for the Veterans Health Administration and a firefighter for her community. Since that time, she has served as an evaluator for the Combined Federal Campaign applicants; packed food boxes at the Children's Hunger Fund; served as a reading tutor for two elementary schools located in the Northside Independent School District for four years; served as a tutor online with the In2Books Program; sponsored a child from Uganda through World Vision for 11 years; served as a companion for a 96 year old WWII veteran as part of the Elder Friends Program and compiled information, wrote, and published his biography for his three living sons; served as a volunteer at Brook Army Medical Center; and served as a member of the San Antonio Mayor's Council on Women. Presently, she is a member of the Homefront Heroes Ministry at her church and independently took on the responsibility of obtaining treatment and refurbishing an indigent veteran's home due to a bed bug infestation; serves as a test monitor and judge for the Academic Decathlon hosted by San Antonio College (11 years to date); and active in supporting the San Antonio Food Bank, Meals on Wheels, and St. Jude's Research Hospital. Leon Valley government involvement included Chair of the Citizens' Police Advisory Committee, Chair of the Beautification Committee, member of the Community Emergency Response Team, member of the Bandera Road Planning Committee, and a member of the Census 2020 Planning Committee. In addition she is serving her third term as President of the Shadow Mist Homeowners' Association. She spends much time assisting neighbors with landscaping, house watching, dog walking, and transportation. She states that she thoroughly enjoys living in Leon Valley and being afforded the opportunity to serve in so many ways.