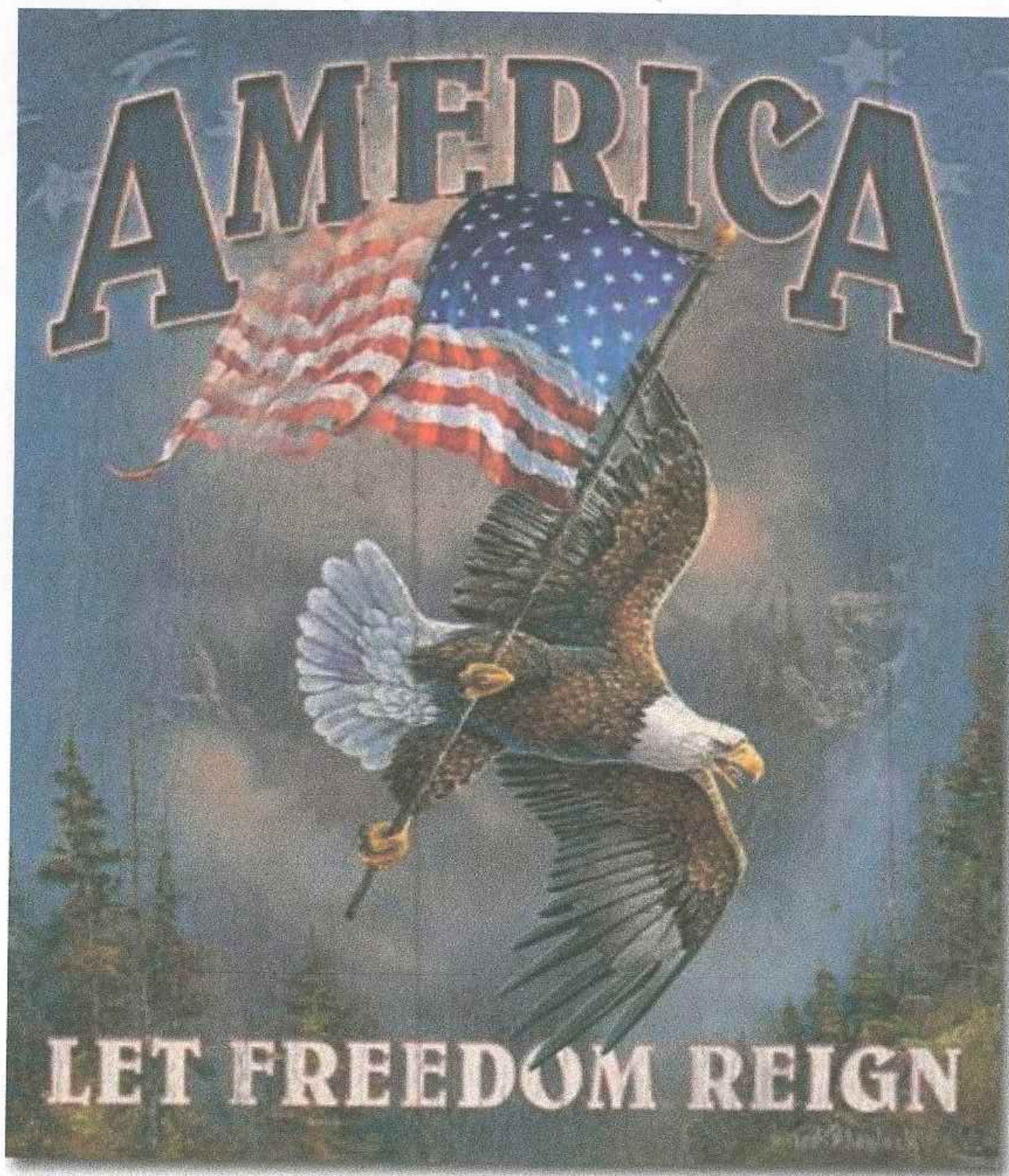


# Veterans Day Parade Scrapbook 2007 - 2018



# Lake Jackson

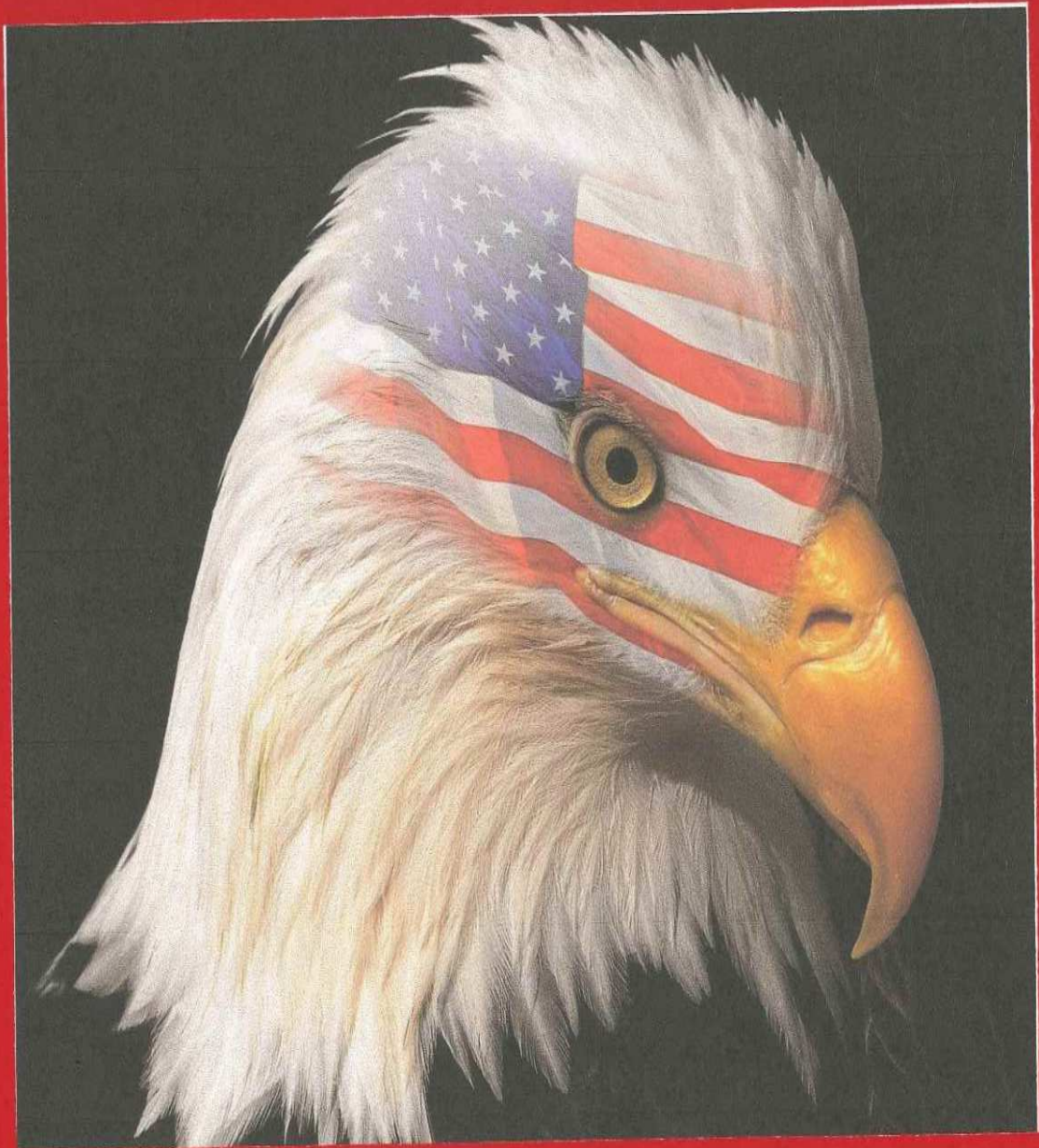
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

VETERANS  
DAY



NOVEMBER 11, 2007





# County veterans will be honored Nov. 11

BY KELLY B. MAGEE  
Special to The Times

The parade whose theme is "Marching with Heroes" will begin at 11 a.m. and will proceed down Lake Road from Highway 332 intersection to MacLean Park.

The "Salute to Veterans' Program" will be in the Park's Pavilion at about 12:30 p.m.

The event will be the fourth consecutive year in which the veterans of Brazoria County

have put together a Veterans Day Parade to honor and revere veterans of the U.S. Armed Services.

Last year, this event was in Danbury, and it will be hosted in Alvin in 2003.

The Lake Jackson VFW Post No. 6266 is the host post for the parade, and its officers are in charge of the parade line-up.

The Furrows and Hobby Lobby West parking lot will be

the marshaling areas.

Lake Jackson's Andy Brannen of American Legion Post 306 is the host post for the program, which will include patriotic music by Brazosport College's Coasters and Combo Band.

It will feature four county veterans sharing stories called "Remembering."

Since the Brazoswood school district has declared Monday,

Nov. 11 a day off, parents are encouraged to bring their children to the parade and program which will allow for more community members to cheer and applaud these heroes who have given so much to the United States.

Small U.S.A. flags will be distributed along with parade route by Girl Scout Troops.

Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola

companies will graciously supply free cooked hot dogs and dispense Cokes at the program site in MacClean Park.

All veterans are invited to March in the parade.

Any veteran, civic, church or fraternal organization who desire to be in the parade can still request an entry form by calling 979-964-3236. Deadline is Friday, Nov. 8.

## Veteran's Day parade on tap

The Facts

LAKE JACKSON — Lake Jackson will be the host city for the 2002 Veterans' Day Parade and Program on Monday.

The parade, whose theme is "Marching With Heroes," will start at 11 a.m. and proceed down Lake Road from Highway 332 to MacLean Park.

A "salute to veterans" program will begin about 12:30 p.m. in the park's pavilion. This will be the fourth consecutive year in which the veterans of Brazoria County have put together a parade to honor all veterans of the armed services.

Last year, the parade was in Danbury. Next year, it will be in Alvin.

Lake Jackson VFW Post 6266 is the host post for this year's parade, and its officers are in charge of the parade line-up. The Furrows and

Hobby Lobby west parking lot will be the marshaling area.

Lake Jackson's Andy Brannen American Legion Post 306 is the host post for the program, which will include patriotic music provided by Brazosport College's Coasters and Combo band and will feature four county veterans sharing stories.

Since Brazosport ISD has declared a day off, children are invited to the parade and program. Girl Scout troops will distribute small U.S. flags along the parade route.

Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola companies will supply free hot dogs and soft drinks in MacLean Park.

All veterans are invited to march in the parade. Any veteran, civic, church or fraternal organization that desires to be in the parade can still obtain an entry form by calling VFW Post Commander Kerry B. Magee at (979) 964-3236.

## Veterans Honored with Parade in Lake Jackson



pictured above:

Marine Sgt. Max McSwain and Gunnery Sgt. Felix Acosta presenting the colors of the United States and the official flag of the United States Marine Corps.

Upper right:

Members of local Boy Scout Troops lead the parade carrying a banner proclaiming its purpose.

Lower right:

Members of the Girl Scouts of Lake Jackson and Freeport distributed American flags to the crowds who lined the street to watch the parade.



VETERANS DAY 2007  
★ CELEBRATING OUR HEROES ★



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Col. Otis Taylor recounts his time in the Army during World War II at a Veterans Day celebration Monday at the Lake Jackson Civic Center. Four veterans spoke about their service in the military, telling of the painful memories as well as finding humor in war.

# War stories

Veterans tell of experiences at LJ ceremony.



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Donald Lytle salutes the U.S. Marine Corps Flag during the posting of the service colors.



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Members of the Mattson-Ringgold Post 503, led by Sandy Weems, left, perform their annual Veterans Day ceremony Monday at Veterans Memorial Park in West Columbia as they are reflected in the black marble of a memorial bench.

By John Lowman  
john.lowman@thefacts.com

LAKE JACKSON — Col. Otis Taylor was in Northern Italy the day Adolph Hitler died.

The retired U.S. Army colonel, a Lake Jackson resident, was with the 10th Mountain Division near Lake Garda on April 30, 1945, and they had several German units pinned down in a large valley. So large, Taylor and company were able to see down into the cockpits of friendly P-47 and P-38 airplanes as they strafed and dive-bombed the enemy below.

"As we sat on top of large boulders and watched the war in Italy winding down, we had a ringside seat to the greatest show on Earth," he told a gathering of about 100 people at the Lake Jackson Civic Center on Monday. "At least it was a great show for us."

The three-time recipient of

■ See VETERANS, Page 7A



## Veterans

CONTINUED FROM COVER

the Bronze Star was one of four speakers at a Veterans Day celebration at the center Monday morning. Vets from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Women's Auxiliary Services, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine were honored at the gathering, one day after Veterans Day.

"We did not know what was happening across Italy, east and west of us, but our part of the war was coming to an end," Taylor said. "On May 2, we received orders to cancel all patrols and fire only if fired on. It was over."

But some wounds of war last a lifetime, said Capt. Kerry Magee, retired from the U.S. Navy.

"Some vets have visible signs of service ... A missing limb, a jagged scar or a look in their eye," said Magee, of Churchill. "They may have shrapnel or an inner steel. You can't tell a vet just by looking. A Prisoner of War who went away one person and came back another, or who didn't come back at all."

"He's the old guy bagging groceries, painfully slow now, wishing his wife were still

alive to hold him when the nightmares still come."

Sgt. Jack Thomson, retired from the U.S. Army, focused more on humor in uniform, telling of a long march in which he carried a 48-pound machine gun and tripod and fell in the mud.

"I cursed everything from Hitler to Roosevelt," said the Lake Jackson resident. A three-day pass to England helped ease the pain of a 138-pound soldier's muddy march.

"Now we're old men," he said. "We were not unique. We answered the call."

Thomson lamented wars of the past 50 years, not finding any humor in what he called using military conflict for political gain.

"That's despicable," he said to a quiet crowd.

Sgt. Bob Johnson, a U.S. Army retiree of Lake Jackson, received a Purple Heart for injuries suffered in Okinawa, Japan. He found a way to laugh about hard times gone by.

"The thing about this Purple Heart is, in Texas, you can get a license plate for \$3," he said as attendees laughed.

All four speakers retired from Dow following their military service.

Magee urged citizens to honor veterans. Not just on Veterans Day, but all year. American liberty doesn't come from politicians, reporters, preachers or attorneys, but those who've fought or died to preserve that freedom, he said.

"When you see somebody who has served our country, just lean over to them and say, 'thank you,'" Magee said. "The men and women who served are true American heroes. Show them your appreciation."

"They're the finest and the greatest, serving the finest, greatest country on Earth."

I pledge allegiance  
to the flag  
of the United States of America  
and to the republic  
for which it stands,  
one nation,  
under God,  
indivisible,  
with liberty  
and justice for all.



*Alvin*



# VETERANS DAY

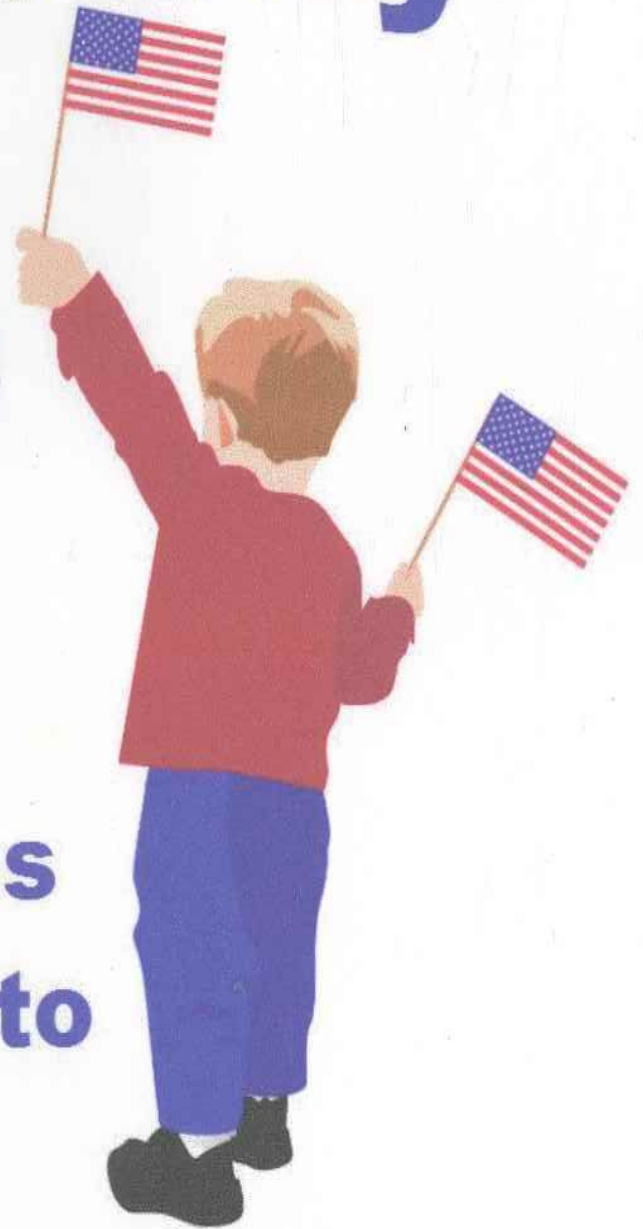
HONORING ALL  
WHO SERVED

NOVEMBER 11, 2008



# **Happy** **Veterans Day!**

**"Thank  
You"**



**...to our Veterans  
for their Service to  
our Country.**



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Chris Taylor gives a thumbs up to the capacity crowd gathered at the Brazoria Civic Center for Tuesday's Veterans Day celebration as he, Lloyd Coanick, left, and several other Purple Heart winners were honored for their sacrifice for our country. The celebration featured music, hot dogs and a recognition of all veterans from every branch of service.

# THEIR TIME

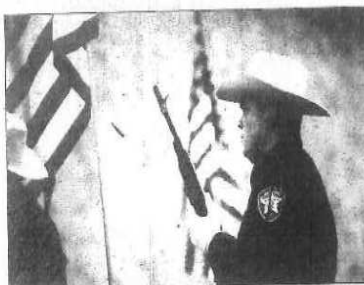
Veterans Day celebrations continue despite rain threat.

By Erin McKeon  
erin.mckeon@thefacts.com



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Rodolphe Fabre salutes as the colors are presented Tuesday during a Veterans Day celebration at the Brazoria Civic Center. Fabre, a World War II veteran, was awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded in Europe in 1945 while in the 80th Infantry.



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Gary Binnicker with the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office Color Guard fires a shot during a gun salute during Tuesday's Veterans Day celebration at the Brazoria Civic Center. Binnicker, who got out of the Army in 2003, was honored as being the youngest veteran at the celebration.

**BRAZORIA**  
Rodolphe Fabre's volunteering led him to Brazoria County's Veterans Day celebration in two ways Tuesday.

The more recent was when the 90-year-old agreed, at his granddaughter's request, to come from his home in Lafayette, La., to Brazoria, where he would be honored with other Purple Heart recipients. The other is how he found himself in a position to receive the medal to start with.

"I volunteered to go overseas in 1944," Fabre said. "I went to France and from France I went to Belgium and Luxembourg and I was wounded in Luxembourg in 1945."

■ See **VETERANS**, Page 10A

## Veterans

CONTINUED FROM COVER

He hopes his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are as proud of his service as he is. Judging from the reception given during ceremonies, pride and a desire to give veterans a proper tribute were in ample supply Tuesday.

Members of the Brazoria County Cavalry patriotic motorcycle troupe quickly put together a small parade Tuesday morning after organizers called off the one that was planned when participants pulled out because of the threat of heavy rain.

"It was a hard decision and one I don't want to make again," Brazoria Heritage Foundation member Bob Schwebel said of his call to move the ceremonies into the Brazoria Civic Center auditorium.

Brazoria County Cavalry member Tracy Reed said he and others got on the phone and began calling everyone they could to have them form a small parade to honor the men and women who have served in the military.

And the veterans said they appreciated the effort.

"It means a whole lot," Vietnam veteran James "Peewee" Lane said.

Lane said honoring veterans past and present is important, even though some might try to shrug it off. Fabre, who said he was in the Battle of the Bulge and other battles, is among those who

"When we leave here today, let every day be Veterans Day."

—Brazoria Mayor Ken Corley

don't talk much about his combat experience.

That doesn't mean the memories aren't there.

Korean War veteran Kirby Rapstein, 77, said his memories of the time he served will be with him forever, and serving his country was an honor he'd do again.

"In Korea, I got there at the end of the thing and we had a cease-fire. I remember that," Rapstein said. "We didn't know what was going to happen. We stopped about 7:30 that evening and we didn't fire or anything and the other side wasn't shooting. I think we were all ready for it to end."

For those currently fighting for America, he said he's proud and wants them to come home safe.

Veteran Frank Fields said he thinks the military builds character and discipline in our young people as it did for him.

"You learn discipline real quick," Fields said. "I wish they had the draft now because if they had the draft there wouldn't be as many people going to the pen or anything because it will straighten you out quick."

"I don't care how tough you are, in two days they'll be able to wake you up."

Fields said he's proud of the men and women currently in the military and is

happy there are people who will volunteer to serve.

About 500 people attended the ceremonies to show their pride to veterans from all branches through songs, speeches, smiles — and by shaking the hands of those who fought for America.

State Rep. Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, introduced each of the nine Purple Heart recipients on stage. Claps and cheers rang from the crowd as each name was read, along with the war served in and the date each was wounded.

Among those who sang were the fifth grade students from Wild Peach Elementary, each telling a small piece of the history of Veterans Day. The Coastaires quartet Spare Change sang patriotic songs a cappella that brought tears to some in the crowd. Pct. 4 Commissioner Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh was among elected officials who had many words of praise for the servicemen.

"Your example gave us hope and it gave us a promise for the future," Rhodenbaugh said. "Thank you."

Brazoria Mayor Ken Corley said many things could be said about veterans, but appropriate thanks could never be given.

"When we leave here today, let every day be Veterans Day," Corley said at the close of his speech Tuesday afternoon.

Erin McKeon covers West of the Brazos communities for The Facts. Contact her at 1979/237-0152.

## Service

CONTINUED FROM COVER

many veterans and community members.

At the Freedom Isn't Free service, community members came together to thank and honor veterans and active-duty soldier for their service.

"It's our responsibility as Americans to make sure that the way the Vietnam veterans were treated when they came home never happens again," Brazoria County Cavalry member Tracy Reed said in a speech.

During the service, Vietnam veterans were asked to stand as they were greeted the way they should have been many years ago.

"As long as there are people like you," Reed said to the crowd, "who will wave that American flag and shake a soldier's hand and say, 'thank you,' this country will be OK."

Dwana Hamre attended the service to honor veterans like her father, a World War II veteran; her brother, a Vietnam War veteran; and



KATLYNN LANHAM/The Facts

Members of Grace Community Fellowship, Brazoria County Cavalry and veterans joined together to sing the national anthem to open the Freedom Isn't Free service in which veterans were honored for their service.

her son, a soldier stationed in Afghanistan.

Hamre remembers stories her father told her about being welcomed home like a hero, and she remembers the way her brother was treated when he came back to America.

Her brother was flown into San Francisco where rotten eggs and tomatoes were thrown at him. "He was

called a baby killer," she said.

"That can never happen again," Hamre said. Her brother carried the pain of that day with him for many years, she said. She knows her son will not be treated that way.

"Today I cried all morning," she said. "It was healing and uplifting. With the flags all around us, I felt protected and somehow I knew that Mark will come home safe. This is a blessed day."

Frank Lawrence spent 21 years in the Air Force during the Korean and Vietnam wars. The 79-year-old now serves in the West of the Brazos Military Support group and attended

Sunday's service to honor all veterans and current soldiers.

"It's such a nice feeling," Lawrence said. "Vietnam

veterans had such a terrible welcome." Today is about making sure that no service member has to go through that again, he said.

"As a kid I was taught that this day meant so much," he said of Veterans Day. "It's a salute to all of us who put our time into making the country better for our children and grandchildren."

Lawrence said he is glad to be in a country where celebrating veterans is allowed.

Lawrence's wife, Rosaline Keller-Lawrence, added the Freedom Isn't Free service also was about celebrating America, and its men and women.

Grace Community Fellowship members and the Brazoria County Cavalry joined together to create the Freedom Isn't Free service. The service included several patriotic songs as well as several speeches.

Brazoria County Cavalry was created in February and since that time, it has conducted almost 60 rides and events supporting U.S. troops returning to the area, Reed said.

"We're just supporting the troops, no matter what they do," Cavalry member Karin Slough said.

Frank Britt served in the armed forces for two years, but he came to the service to honor those who gave more than he did, he said.

"I consider my service as not that much," he said. "It's just something you did, you didn't ask for thanks, you didn't ask for anything."

Whether he asked for it or not, Britt received thanks at the service.

## Service thanks veterans, troops

By Katlynn Lanham  
katlynn.lanham@thefacts.com

**RICHWOOD** — Tears rolled down the cheeks of Vietnam War veterans as they received a warm welcome Sunday from the audience at the Freedom Isn't Free service, a reception many believed they deserved and never received when they first returned to America.

As Veterans Day approaches, setting right such slights of the past is the goal of



KATLYNN LANHAM/The Facts

Brazoria County Cavalry member Jerry Phillips watches as those attending the Freedom Isn't Free service sing songs honoring God and America.

■ See **SERVICE**, Page 2A



I served





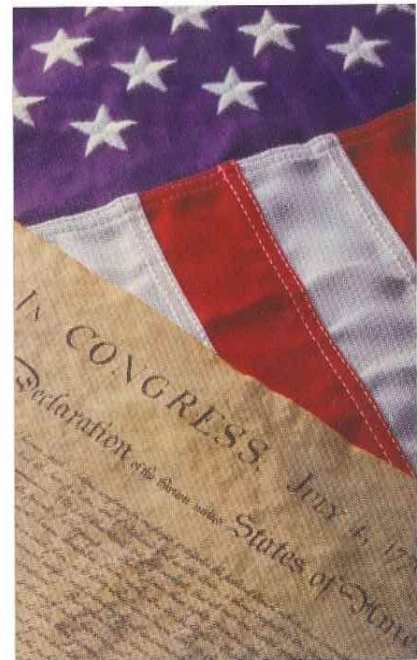
Contributed photo

Fifth-grade students perform at the 10th annual "A Salute to Veterans" program at Wild Peach Elementary Friday. Area veterans and those currently serving in the military were honored with certificates of appreciation.



Contributed photo

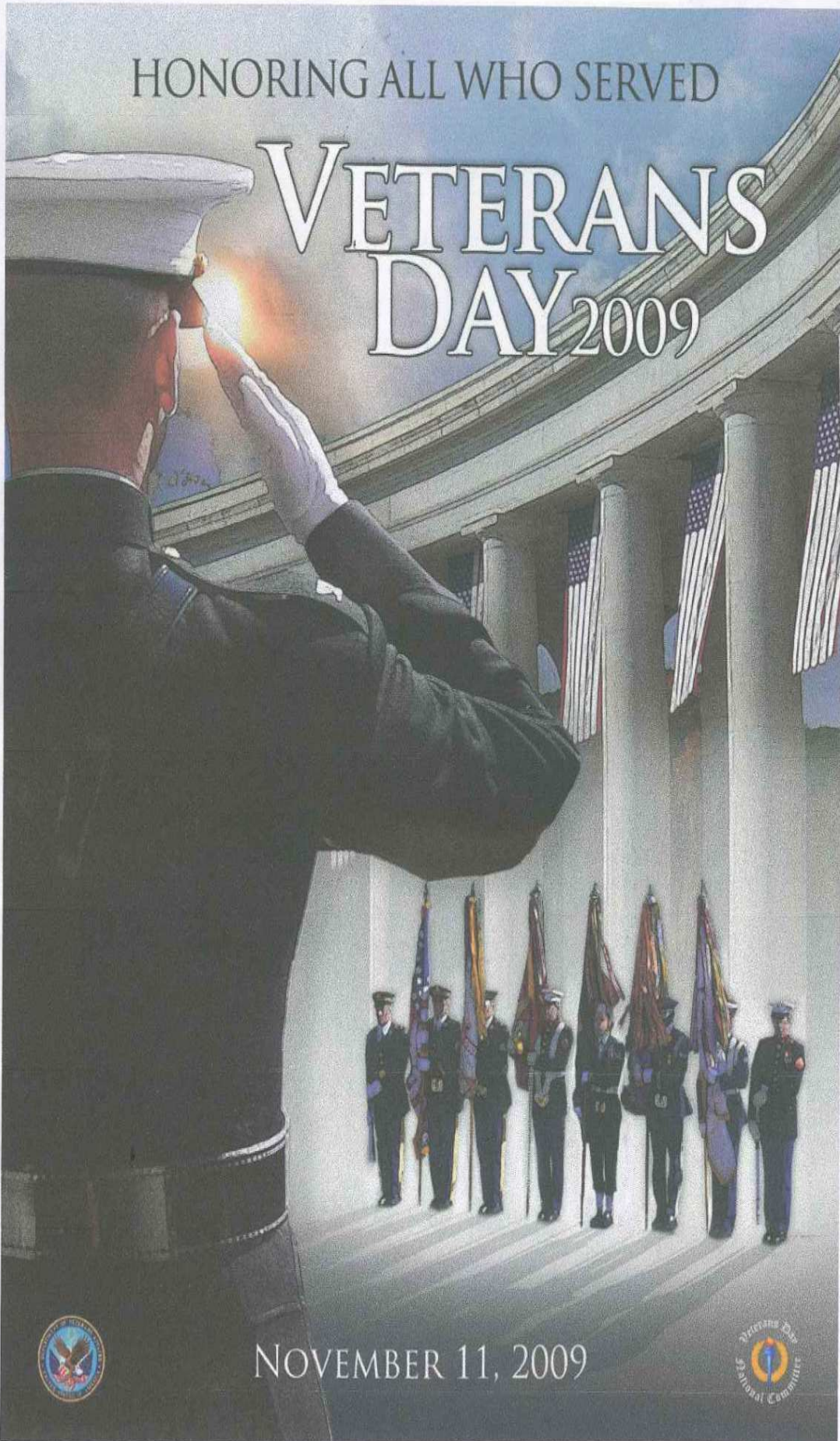
Fifth-grader Zachary Andersen presents American flags to veterans Sands Weems, Don Lytle and Richard Eernisse members of the Matson-Ringgold American Legion Post Friday, at the 10th annual "A Salute to Veterans" program at Wild Peach Elementary.



# Freeport

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

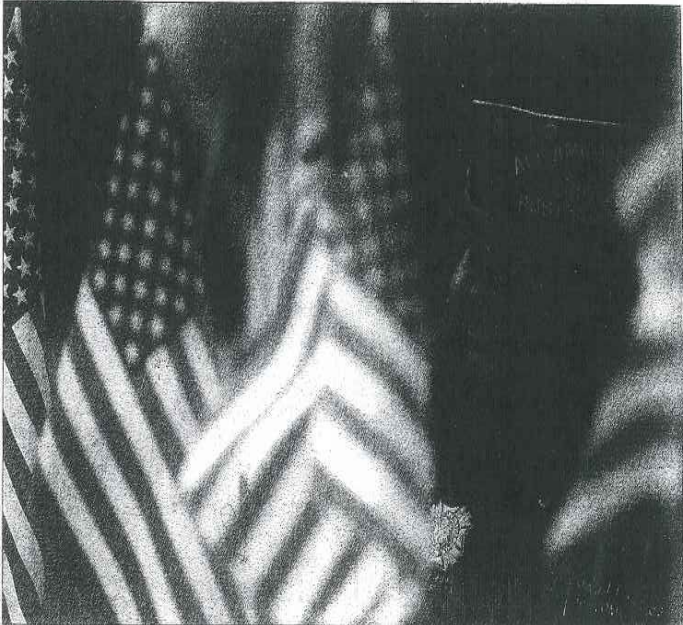
## VETERANS DAY 2009



NOVEMBER 11, 2009







RYAN EVON/The Facts

Edward Garcia of Freeport, former commander of VFW Post 4341, sits on the post's float before the start of the Veterans Day Parade on Sunday in Freeport. 161 MORE VETERANS DAY PICTURES ONLINE AT THEFACTS.COM.

# A Day for Heroes

Freeport hosts Veterans Day Parade.

By MICHAEL FREEMAN  
michael.freeman@thefacts.com

**FREEPORT**

Adam Poindexter held a homemade sign, thanking veterans as they made their way down Second Street on Sunday afternoon.

Poindexter and hundreds of other people lined the city's streets along the route of the Veterans Day Parade.

"It was nice," the Angleton resident said. "Real big turnout."

More than 20 different groups, some from as far away as Pearland, drove and marched from the Old Baywoods parking lot to the downtown Memorial Park. Mollie Cummings of Jones Creek enjoyed seeing the appreciation Brazoria County residents showed local veterans Sunday.

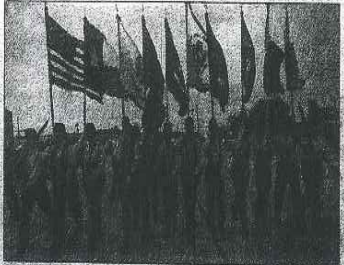
"It means a lot that people have come together, Cummings said. "Veterans Day is every day. You should be appreciative of the battles that were fought and the lives that were lost."

Many veterans met at Memorial Park for food and a ceremony following the



RYAN EVON/The Facts

Jack Taylor waves to the crowd after Tracy Road of the Brazoria County Cavalry recognizes him as the oldest veteran, 96, at the ceremony after the Veterans Day Parade on Sunday in Freeport.



RYAN EVON/The Facts

Members of the Brazoswood Junior ROTC march down West Second Street during the Veterans Day Parade on Sunday in Freeport.

parade. Brazoria County Cavalry members, who led the parade, also operated a raffle, awarding customized Bowie knives to veterans holding the lucky ticket stubs. And the Cavalry honored the

oldest and youngest veterans in attendance Sunday: 96-year-old Doc Taylor and 21-year-old Steve Poindexter. The Brazoswood High

■ See PARADE, Page 5A

Brazoria honors fallen warriors with memorial.

By MICHAEL FREEMAN  
michael.freeman@thefacts.com

**BRAZORIA**

Mayor Ken Corley is impressed with the city's new veterans memorial, which was unveiled Sunday.

"It's probably the most significant piece of art in the city," Corley said.

The black granite memorial showcases the names of every Brazoria resident who was killed in war since 1832.

"This is a unique memorial," said Bob Schwebel, president of the Brazoria Heritage Foundation. "This one goes back to the Republic of Texas."

Four years of planning and \$30,000 went into the project, Schwebel said. The heritage foundation and the Brazoria Lions Club teamed up to compile the names of those who died fighting in the battle of Velasco, the Alamo, Goliad, the Meir Expedition, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operation Enduring Freedom in Iraq.

"This is the first one anywhere," Corley said,

■ See MEMORIAL, 2A

## Memorial

CONTINUED FROM COVER

referring to the scope of the monument.

The memorial also has a spot dedicated to local first responders who died on duty. There currently are no names on that spot.

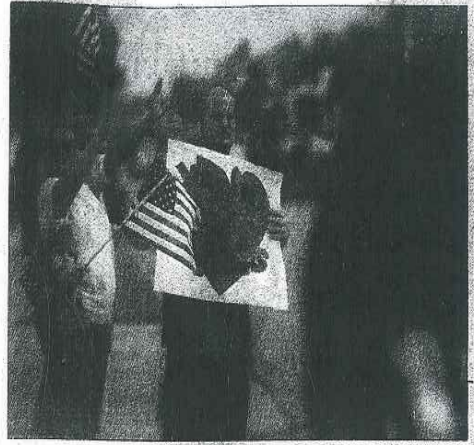
"We hope it stays blank," Schwebel said.

The memorial, located near the entrance to the Brazoria Civic Center and Museum at 202 Smith St., features four granite benches encircling a concrete slab emblazoned with a large Texas star. The granite memorial sits on the north side of the slab against a grassy mound and flagpole. Oleander plants will be placed on either side of the memorial. Behind the memorial is an 8- by 12-foot mural featuring Stephen F. Austin, Denise and Jo Ann Cerventes created the colorful mural, which shows the "Father of Texas" on his horse, Ned.

Bryson Memorials of Angleton installed the memorial, which still needs some cosmetic touches to be finished, Corley said. The mayor believes the memorial will serve as a patriotic reminder to residents of the sacrifices past residents made.

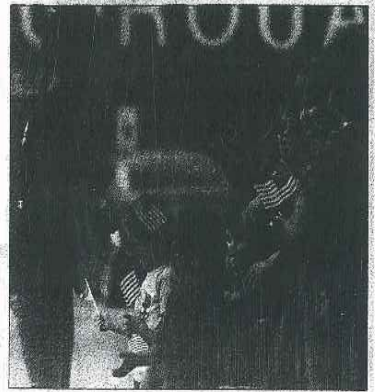
"They're going to take more pride in the community," Corley said. "We're proud to be Brazorians, and I think this displays it."

Michael Freeman is a reporter for The Facts. Contact him at 979-237-0154.



RYAN EVON/The Facts

TOP: Hazel Poindexter, 6, and her dad, Adam, watch the Veterans Day Parade on Sunday in Freeport. RIGHT: Charrell Hicks of Angleton hands out small American flags during the Veterans Day Parade in Freeport. Hicks, who serves in the U.S. Air Force, will be shipping out Nov. 23.



RYAN EVON/The Facts

## Parade

CONTINUED FROM COVER

School Air Force Junior ROTC handled the flag ceremony and the Brazosport High School band played patriotic tunes.

World War II Army veteran Nat Hickey was the ceremony's main speaker. The 89-year-old Freeport resident has lived in the city all his life, save for the three years and 10 days he served during World War II.

Since Veterans Day coincided with Freeport's Centennial Celebration, Hickey decided to describe the city's history to the audience.

"Many people don't know a whole lot about Freeport," he said.

Hickey detailed prehistoric mastodons roaming the area, Spanish explorers naming the land and modern chemical companies shaping the city. He mentioned hurricanes that struck the coastline, industrial discoveries that were made and cyclic

population booms. "Right here is where the state of Texas was born — right here," Hickey said.

Afterward, he invited everyone to tour the new World War II exhibit at the nearby Freeport Historical Museum.

Next year's Veterans Day parade will be in Lake Jackson, as local cities rotate on which one hosts the event each year.

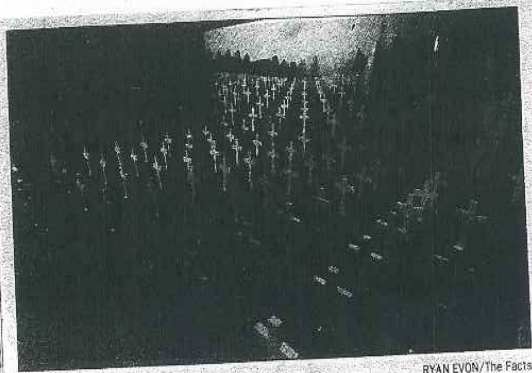
Michael Freeman is a reporter for The Facts. Contact him at 979-237-0154.



# A nation's thanks



World War II veteran Nat Hickey and Roy Averett look at displays of the World War II exhibit Saturday at the Freeport Historical Museum.



RYAN EVON/The Facts

One of the last features of the World War II exhibit at the Freeport Historical Museum is a representation of the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France.

## Exhibit

CONTINUED FROM COVER

National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg will be familiar with the setup, although it's scaled down, as one might imagine.

"It starts with the invasion of Poland, and it ends with the surrender of Japan," said Nat Hickey, Freeport's unofficial historian, a World War II veteran and one of the exhibit's designers.

Walking into the exhibit, museum guests take a left turn and walk through a maze-like path lined with photos, and quotes from military and civilian leaders of the era, many accompanied speeches and segments of radio broadcasts from the time that are played on a continuous loop.

"Here's where I went in," Hickey said, pointing at Omaha Beach on a map showing the D-Day landing locations of the Allied forces. "I went in on the 11th, five days after D-Day."

Even several days after the bloody battle to take the beach, the army still

hadn't gained much territory and the area was still teeming with German soldiers, he said.

"You could put your thumb on a map, and that's how much territory we held then," Hickey said.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is the collection of a few dozen copies of pages from The Freeport Facts, as it was then known.

"This is WWII how The Freeport Facts saw it," Hickey said. "We went through the papers from that time and took what you see here."

One such page, showed an "E Pennant" being presented to the leadership of Dow Chemical Co. for production excellence.

"Those were a big deal," Hickey said. Leaving the exhibit, the last things visitors will see

are a miniature recreation of the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France, and photos honoring local veterans of all eras.

That second item is still a work in progress, Hickey said.

"We're still getting information for it," he said. He added local veterans interested in being part of it should send a picture of themselves to the museum, and include their branch, date of and periods of service.

Admission to the museum is free, but donations are appreciated. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

For information, call the museum at 979-233-0066.



New Freeport exhibit honors area veterans, shows local perspective of the great war.

By ALAN NIESCHWIETZ  
alan.nieschwietz@thefacts.com

### FREEPORT

The newest exhibit here took a couple of months to put together, but was completed just in time to open on Veterans Day.

Designed to honor area veterans, but also to highlight the history of World War II as seen through the eyes of Brazoria County, the exhibit,

"Bringing the War Home: World War II as seen through The Freeport Facts" will be on display today through the end of December at the Freeport Historical Museum.

"When we got done with it, we stood back and said, 'This really is a first-class exhibit,'" Assistant City Manager Gilbert Arispe said.

Local Vietnam veteran Harold

### OURVIEW

We could never thank them enough. But that doesn't mean we should stop trying.

PAGE 6A



RYAN EVON/The Facts

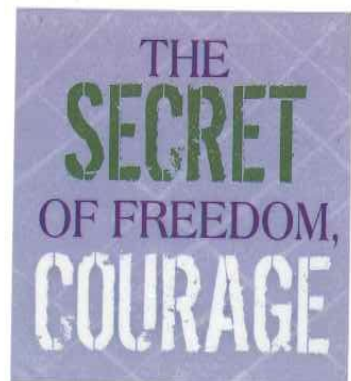
Scott Rogers shows Tina Rogers part of the World War II exhibit he helped set up at the Freeport Historical Museum on Saturday in Freeport.

Gaul was one of many in attendance Saturday for a special luncheon and preview of the exhibit, and said he, too, was impressed.

"It's really good," he said. "It's unexpected in a small-town museum. I'm glad we captured some of the local history."

People who have been to the

See EXHIBIT, Page 3A





AIR FORCE



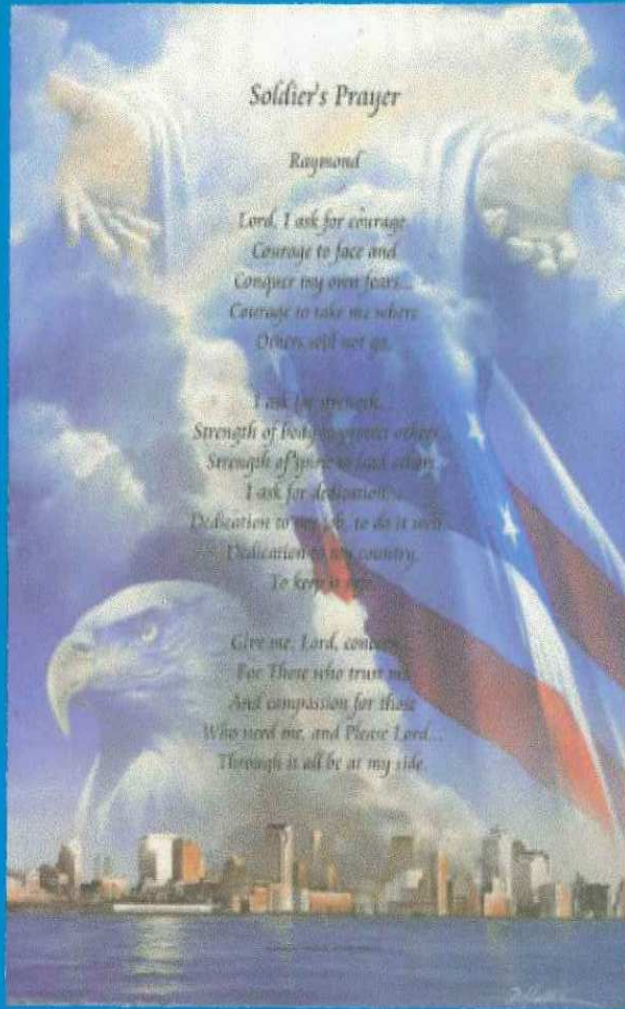
### Soldier's Prayer

Raymond

Lord, I ask for courage  
Courage to face and  
Conquer my own fears...  
Courage to take me where  
Others will not go.

I ask for strength  
Strength of body to protect others  
Strength of spirit to lead others  
I ask for dedication  
Dedication to my job, to do it well  
Dedication to my country  
To keep it free.

Give me, Lord, comfort  
For those who trust me  
And compassion for those  
Who need me, and Please Lord...  
Through it all be at my side.



NATIONAL GUARD

NAVY

MARINES

*You are our protector and soldier  
You are the hero so brave  
You stand so tall in front of people  
Never ever a slave  
You are the pride of the nation so true  
Your intentions are so pure all through  
A big salute to you  
Happy Veteran's Day to you!*



AIRBORNE

ARMY



# Angleton

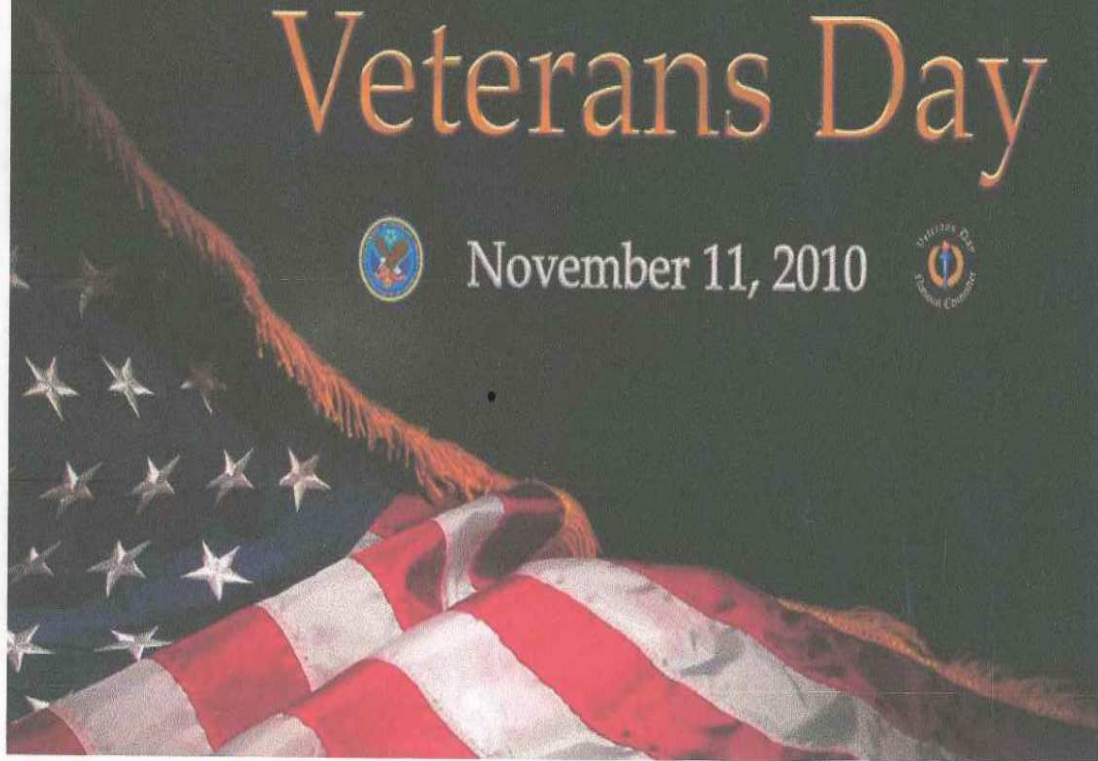
LEXINGTON + SARATOGA + YORKTOWN  
BARBARY WARS + LAKE ERIE + NEW ORLEANS  
MONTEREY + VERA CRUZ + BULL RUN + SHILOH  
ANTIETAM + CHANCELLORSVILLE + GETTYSBURG  
INDIAN WARS + SANTIAGO + MANILA  
BELLEAU WOOD + MEUSE - ARGONNE + MIDWAY  
GUADALCANAL + ANZIO + BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC  
NORMANDY + ARDENNES - ALSACE + IWO JIMA  
BERLIN AIR LIFT + PUSAN + INCHON + SEOUL  
GULF OF TONKIN + ROLLING THUNDER + DAK TO  
KHE SANH + TET OFFENSIVE + COLD WAR  
GRENADA + PANAMA + GULF WAR I + BOSNIA  
SOMALIA + KOSOVO + TORA BORA + KANDAHAR  
FALLUJAH + SADR CITY + BASRA

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

## Veterans Day



November 11, 2010







# Angleton to host veterans parade

Event also includes groundbreaking for Ring of Honor.

By JOHN LOWMAN

john.lowman@thefacts.com



## Parade

CONTINUED FROM COVER

tremendous crowd," Jerabeck said. "The statues are coming from a foundry in Wyoming. I can't wait until they arrive."

Placed on the courthouse lawn, the Ring of Honor eventually will include six granite blocks with photos of a veteran from each branch of the service.

The granite blocks are

to be placed in the 50-foot diameter pavilion. It will include three flags, 11 floor panels, a granite inner circle with a granite star, and monuments for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.

Nov. 11 activities at the courthouse will include the groundbreaking, presentation of colors, patriotic music by Angleton High School band and choirs, a speech by Sasser and World War II veteran

Al Thacker and remarks by County Judge E.J. "Joe" King.

Courthouse events will be on the northeast lawn and are expected to take about an hour.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. and will wind down Cedar Street to Downing Street and travel north to the Angleton High School stadium, said Angleton Police Lt. Mike Jones, who is coordinating the parade.

Angleton council in April approved a request by area veterans groups to place flags throughout the city on Veterans Day in November. Members of the Brazoria County Cavalry will help with the flags along the parade route, Jones said.

"We'll start putting the flags out Tuesday," Jones said. "People will know if they're on the route and should plan not to drive on those streets for a couple of hours."

Numerous Angleton ISD classes will be involved in the parade and once it arrives at the stadium, many more will take part in events there, Angleton ISD spokeswoman Hanna Chalmers said.

Angleton junior high and high school students are writing essays, and the two winners will read their entries at the stadium. Elementary-level students will enter pictures into contests and winners will be announced at the stadium, she said.

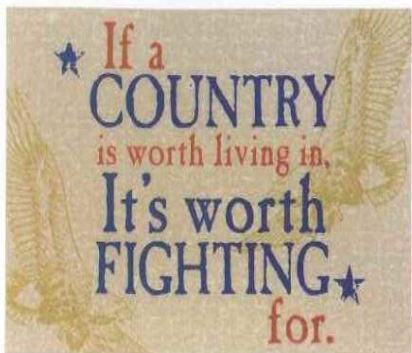
Bands and choirs also will perform patriotic music and students from Angleton campuses will be bused to the location, Chalmers said. Planning for the event continues and a complete schedule is not quite finished.

"We'll have a lot of participation in the parade and at the stadium," Chalmers said. "We're going to have a lot going on with the school district."

Jones said Angleton leaders are happy to help sponsor the annual event.

"This will be a great way to commemorate and honor our veterans," he said. "Brazoria County cares about their veterans and the military and the city of Angleton is proud to be hosting it."

John Lowman covers Brazoria County for The Facts. Contact him at 979-849-8581.



"We're expecting a tremendous crowd. The statues are coming from a foundry in Wyoming. I can't wait until they arrive."

— John Jerabeck  
Brazoria County Veterans Services officer



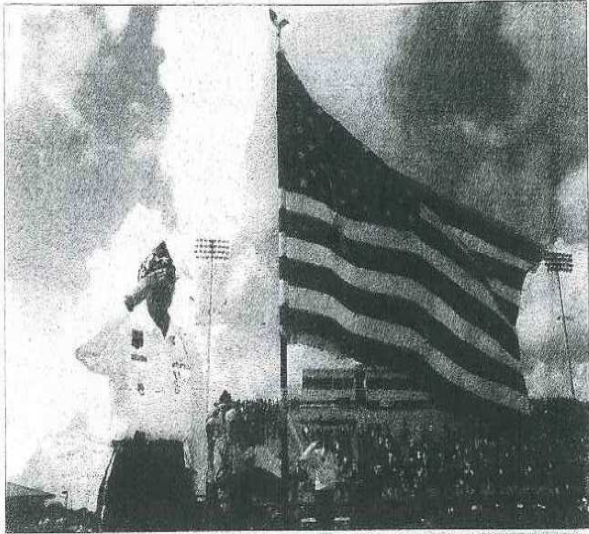
ANGLETON — John Jerabeck enjoys all Brazoria County Veterans Day activities, but he's particularly keen on the Nov. 11 parade, this year in Angleton.

The event, which is moved to a different town each year, will begin at the Brazoria County Courthouse at 9 a.m. But the parade is the second part of the morning. Festivities begin with the unveiling of a pair of statues which eventually will be integrated into the Veterans Memorial Ring of Honor.

Initially planned as the grand opening of the ring, in July the ceremony was changed to a groundbreaking. Statues of Medal of Honor recipient Clarence Sasser and a Gold Star mother will be unveiled then, Jerabeck said.

"We're expecting a

**VETERANS DAY 2010**  
BRAZORIA COUNTY PAYS TRIBUTE



RYAN EVON/The Facts

Capt. Harold Gaul of the Brazoria County Combined Honor Guard salutes the flag during the playing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" during the Veterans Day event in Angleton on Thursday.

# WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Thousands turn out to reflect on sacrifices of service members.

By JOHN LOWMAN  
john.lowman@thefacts.com

ANGLETON — Landon Logan knew he was wearing the same kind of hat as a guy named Sam. He was just a little unsure about which Sam.

Watching the Brazoria County Veterans Day parade along Downing Road, the Rancho Isabella fourth-grader had on a very tall, red, white and blue hat with stars around the brim.

"It's a Sam Houston hat," Landon said, then paused. "Oh, wait, Uncle Sam."

Hat or not, Landon knew Veterans Day was set aside to recognize those who fought for America.

"It's a day to honor people or soldiers who died in wars," he said, glancing at his mom, Shannon Logan, who wore a star the same colors as Logan's hat. She was helping chaperone her



RYAN EVON/The Facts

Clarence Sasser has his picture taken as he stands next to a statue of himself from his service in Vietnam, which earned him a Congressional Medal of Honor. The statue, which will be part of the Brazoria County Ring of Honor at the Brazoria County Courthouse, was unveiled Thursday as part of Veterans Day events in Angleton.

## Ring of Honor statues unveiled

By JOHN LOWMAN  
john.lowman@thefacts.com

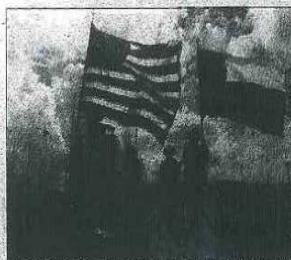
ANGLETON — Clarence Sasser wasn't looking to be a hero. He was just doing what he thought was right.

"You had to do something," said Sasser, recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest recognition of valor in combat members of the U.S. Armed Forces can earn. "The best thing I could do was get the others up so maybe they could fight again."

As part of the Brazoria County Veterans Day celebration Thursday morning in Angleton, a bronze statue of a crouching young Sasser, medical pack in hand, was unveiled on the lawn of the Brazoria County Courthouse. The statue eventually will be part of the Brazoria County Ring of Honor, a

See PARADE, Page 8A

See RING, Page 8A



RYAN EVON/The Facts

Brazoria County Sheriff's deputies present the colors at the start of the Veterans Day festivities Thursday at Wildcat Stadium in Angleton.



RYAN EVON/The Facts

Daniel Coffey Jr., 3, walks along Downing Street in Angleton for the Veterans Day Parade to come by Thursday. Coffey's father, who served in the Army, participated in the parade.

**UNITED  
WE  
STAND**



## Parade

CONTINUED FROM COVER

non's class.

"I'm here to honor the veterans," she said. "It's very important to remember those who served our country."

That was the goal for Angleton ISD district spokeswoman Hanna Chalmers said. Thousands of school children watched the 75-entry parade as it wound from the Brazoria County Courthouse to Wildcat Stadium, then were bused to the stadium from their respective campuses.

By the time students, parents, teachers, veterans and other residents were in the 7,000-seat stadium facility was near capacity.

"A lot of us take off Veterans Day but we don't always recognize what it is," Chalmers said. "We take the opportunity to recognize, respect and properly honor our servicemen and women."

Numerous videos of students, teachers and school officials telling why Veterans Day is important to them played on the stadium's giant



RYAN EVON/The Facts

Brazoria County Judge E.J. "Joe" King speaks during the Veterans Day ceremony at the Brazoria County Courthouse.

scoreboard screen.

Al Thacker, a World War II veteran, served as parade grand marshal after being chosen from names submitted to a parade committee. Once the crowd was seated, he had no problem telling them how he felt about America.

"It is my privilege to be the grand marshal of this Veterans Day parade in honor of all the vets who served to protect our country," he said, his image projected onto the scoreboard.

The crowd applauded enthusiastically when Brazoria County Judge E.J. "Joe" King said many of them might have to serve one day to protect "the greatest county in the greatest state in the greatest country

in the world."

The Angleton High School band and choir played a selection of patriotic songs, and junior ROTC units from Alvin and Brazoswood High Schools performed. Despite intermittent rain, the large crowd remained from 11 a.m. until the ceremony ended after 2 p.m.

Rancho Isabella third-grader Nicholas Smith didn't mind the rain, nor did he mind getting out of class to watch a parade. Many youths brought sack lunches and ate outside.

"It's about the flag," he said of the day's celebration.

Classmate Tyler Gray said it was in recognition of "the soldiers who died for us," while Robbie Martinez said it's about "all the Army people who saved our country."

Wearing a brightly colored and patriotic "United We Stand" T-shirt, Rancho Isabella student Briana Henson said the day is about the people who've died. Kisa Flores went into a little more detail.

"It means we salute our flag today," she said. "We celebrate the vets who died."

Rancho Isabella students Timothy Trahan, Rheanna Tijerina and Tristan Wooten agreed the day was about soldiers, while Austin Fairchild said America is a great place to live.

"We get to fight for it," he said. "The soldiers fought for us so we can live in peace."

## Ring

CONTINUED FROM COVER

monument to all county veterans past and present, and a memorial to those who didn't make it home.

Ten feet away was the second statue unveiled Thursday, but like the heartbreaking scene it represents, the second statue stood alone.

There were no crowds around the bronze of a Gold Star mother, sitting by herself in a straight-backed chair, hugging a folded American flag to her chest. Military families were given small flags with blue stars on them to signify their child's current military service.

If a child was killed in battle, the blue star was

## RINGDONATIONS

Mail checks to:  
Veterans Services  
111 E. Locust St.  
Building A-29, Suite 120  
Angleton, TX 77515

For information, e-mail:  
johng@brazoria-county.com

replaced with a gold one. The woman's eyes are drawn in tears, her sadness evident in the bronze.

That statue "reflects the grief only a family member could feel," Brazoria County Veterans Services Director John Jerabeck told about 200 people gathered on the lawn and spilling onto the street.

The unveiling initially was planned as a dedication of the Ring of Honor, but all of the pieces

weren't ready to be placed, said Jerabeck, who also is on the committee charged with raising money for the memorial and getting it done.

When completed, the Ring of Honor will include six granite blocks with photos of a veteran from each branch of the service. The granite blocks are to be placed in the 50-foot diameter pavilion. It will include three flags, 11 floor panels, a granite inner circle with a granite star, six monuments and statues of Sasser and the Gold Star mother.

Names of Brazoria County veterans killed in service will be inscribed on the memorials.

The ring will cost \$650,000 to complete, and the group still needs

to raise about \$100,000, and donations are being accepted, Jerabeck said.

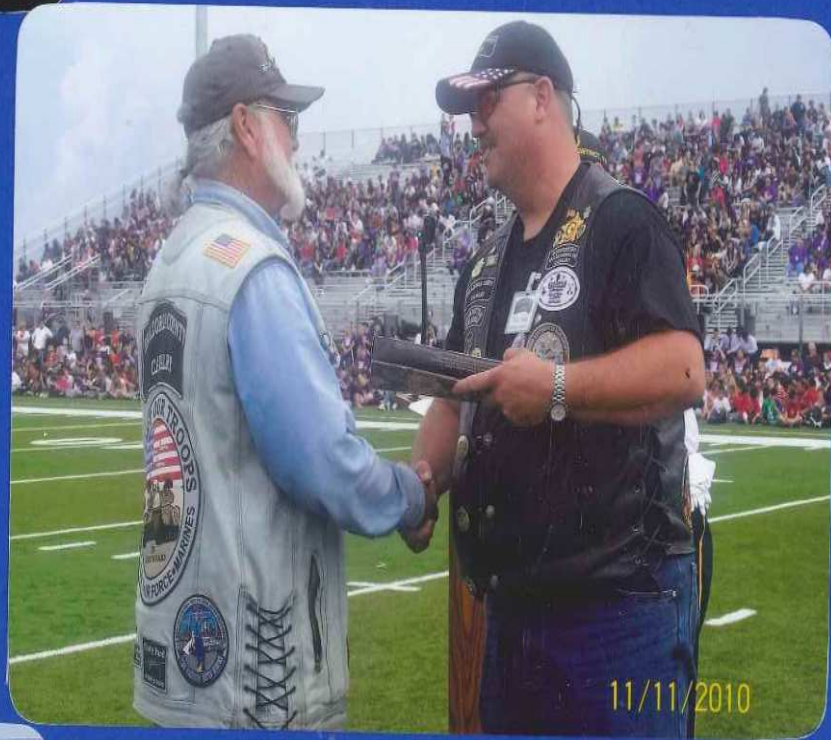
"We decided early on we were not going to cut any corners," he said, explaining briefly why the dedication was changed.

"This is going to be top drawer. I guarantee when this is completed, if you're any kind of American, you won't be disappointed."

The current memorial inside the courthouse is behind indoor foliage and metal detectors and doesn't do veterans justice, County Judge E.J. "Joe" King said. The new memorial will solve that problem.

"It's been a long road, but I think we're getting ready to get it done," he said.









### Dow WWII Veterans and Dow Employees Guardians,



It was an honor to be part of your Dow Honor Flight to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Thank you for your service to our country and for all that you have done for Dow and our Freeport site.



Respectfully,  
Your Friends at Texas Operations





# Lake Jackson

*Defending Liberty and Freedom*

## VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

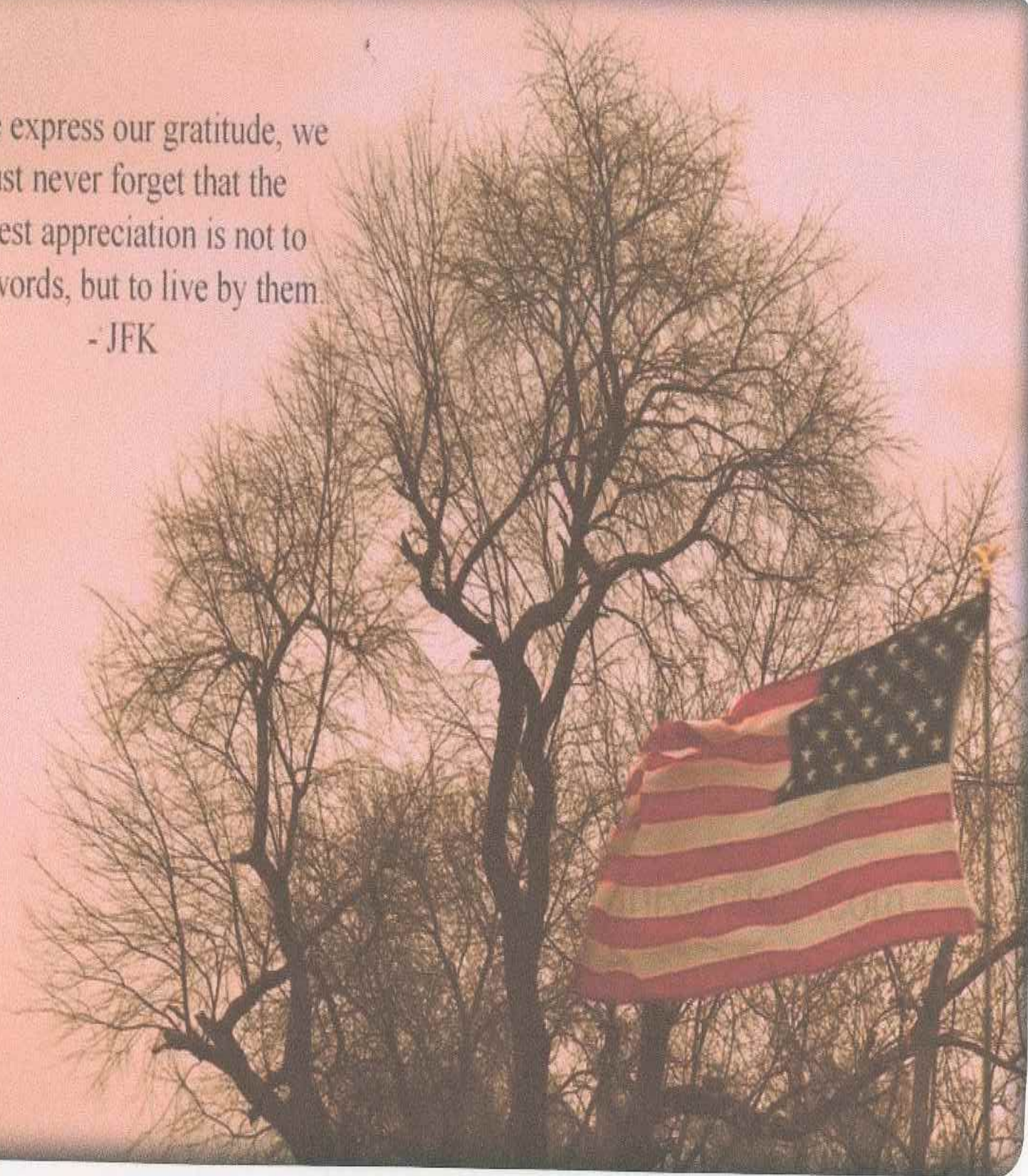
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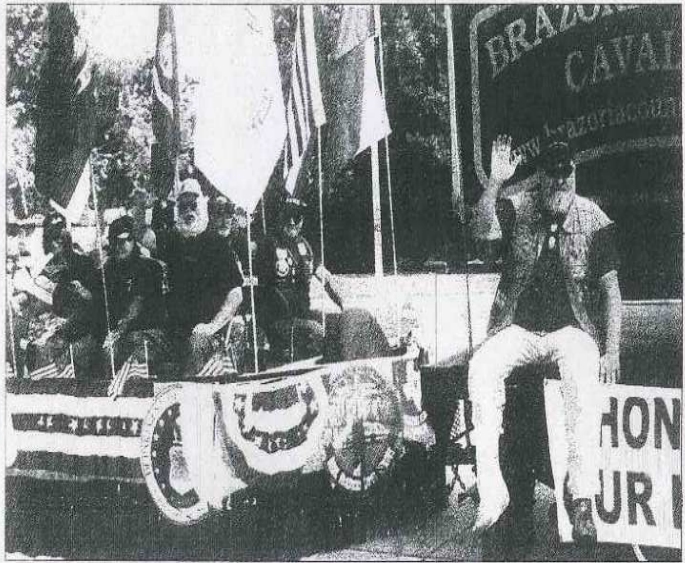
As we express our gratitude, we  
must never forget that the  
highest appreciation is not to  
utter words, but to live by them.

- JFK



strong & proud

## HONORING OUR VETERANS



ANDY PACKARD/The Facts

Members of the Brazoria County Cavalry wave to the crowd Monday as their float drives down Oak Drive in Lake Jackson during the Veterans Day parade.

# UNIFORM RESPECT

Veterans Day events celebrate those who have served, past and present

By ANDY PACKARD  
andy.packard@thefacts.com

LAKE JACKSON — Richard Crow couldn't ask for a better day to celebrate with fellow veterans as parade-goers of all ages lined Oak Drive on a sunny Monday to show their patriotism and appreciation.

Crow, a veteran who served from 1969 to 1971 during the Vietnam War, rode with County Commissioner Donald "Dude" Payne on an M151 APC military truck during the Veteran's Day parade in Lake Jackson.

"Remembering the vets has always been close and dear to my heart," Crow said. "Thank a vet, because they are the reason we have the freedom we have."

The procession began at First National Bank on the corner of West Way and Circle Way and ended at the Lake Jackson Civic Center. The parade featured the Brazoria County Cavalry, first

responders from Lake Jackson, Angleton, and Brazoria as well as bands, drill teams and cheerleaders from Brazoswood, Angleton and Columbia high schools.

A ceremony followed at the Veterans Memorial Plaza at the Lake Jackson Civic Center. About 50 veterans from all branches of the U.S. military attended, including Charlie Boswell, a veteran and survivor from Pearl Harbor. Brazoria County Veterans Service Officer Sonya Broadway was guest speaker.

Broadway, an Air Force veteran of the first Gulf War, received the Purple Heart, Medal of Valor and the Col. Billy Jack Carter Award for heroism. She suffered a broken leg and dislocated ankle during a truck bomb blast but helped administer first aid to the wounded and assisted the Red Cross.

Broadway spoke of her duties

See VETERANS, Page 4A



ANDY PACKARD/The Facts

Steve Koury, a Vietnam veteran, salutes others who have served in the military as they ride in the Veterans Day parade Monday in Lake Jackson.

## Veterans

CONTINUED FROM COVER

as the Brazoria County Veterans Service Officer and how important it is to take care of the military men and women.

The job of the Veterans Service Officer is to help those who served get their benefits and pensions. Broadway believes veterans should get what they deserve and goes out of her way to make sure they do, she said.

"As a kid, I'm pretty sure I didn't say that I wanted to be a veteran service officer," Broadway said. "Who knew what that was? The Good Lord did, and He put me exactly where I'm supposed to be."

There is a state law saying all counties with a population of more than 200,000 people will have a Veterans Service Officer to help those who have served, but it's not always enforced, she said.

The office of the Brazoria County Veterans Service handles 40 hours of phone calls a month alone, not counting Internet and email responses, and sees 10 walk-ins a day, Broadway said.

Broadway urged veterans in attendance to share their experiences as she recounted her time in the military, from combat training at Fort Dix in New Jersey to the Middle East, where she was injured.

It doesn't matter how exciting, boring, or crazy things might have been, they should be shared with loved ones, especially younger generations, Broadway said.

Lake Jackson Mayor Joe Rinehart read a proclamation announcing Nov. 11, 2013 as Veterans Appreciation Day in Lake Jackson.

As a veteran of the Vietnam War, Rinehart said he couldn't describe what an honor it was to host the Veterans Day celebration in the city, he said.

"I think it's important to always remember the veterans, from the Revolutionary War to the present, those who made a difference in our freedoms, those that are so important to be maintained," he said.

It is important for veterans to have the chance to relate to other members of the community, as well as other veterans, he said.

People come up to Crow and thank him for his service quite often, and that gives him a good feeling, he said. But when residents come to a ceremony officially to honor veterans, that is a special moment.

"We should never forget our past," he said.

Brave

## Area going all out for Veterans Day

Patriotic parade, variety of community events planned

By KELLIE MCKNIGHT  
kellie.mcknight@thefacts.com

LAKE JACKSON — Texas Roadhouse is taking the "go big or go home" perspective this Veterans Day, offering all active, former or retired military a free lunch Monday.

It's the fourth year the national restaurant chain has offered lunch for veterans at all its locations. Service members past and present can come in between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for their complimentary meal.

"We have a special Veterans Day menu with 10 choices to choose from, including a 6-ounce sirloin, so they can get a steak," said Travis Doster, public relations director for Texas Roadhouse. "We are very honored to do this and it's by far our favorite day of the year."

Texas Roadhouse is just one of



### COMING MONDAY

At 50 years old, Freeport's Nat Hickey never thought he would make it back to Europe. Much less see the same streets he walked on, sleep in the same hotel he slept in, and see where so many brave men fell during World War II.

See VETERANS, Page 8A

## Veterans

CONTINUED FROM COVER

many places in Brazoria County celebrating veterans Monday. That is especially true in Lake Jackson, which is this year's host city for the countywide Veterans Day commemoration.

Lake Jackson's activities start with a Veterans Brunch from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Civic Center.

"It's for the veterans and their families," said Brewster E. Borg, commander of the American Legion Post 306 in Lake Jackson. "The active are always welcome."

To RSVP to the brunch, call 979-415-2600.

The Veterans Day parade begins at 1:30 p.m. at the First National Bank building off the Highway 332 feeder road, and travels through downtown to the Lake Jackson Civic Center. The parade will have the bands, choirs, drill teams, cheerleaders and ROTC members

from Brazosport ISD.

A program will follow the parade at the Veterans Memorial Plaza outside the civic center.

"The mayor will give the introduction, I'll do the pledge and the Brazoria County Sheriff's Office will post the American and Texas flags," Borg said.

The ceremony also will have the Brazoria County Sheriff's Department fire a salute, along with a 10- to 15-minute speech by Sonya Broadway, director of the Brazoria County Veterans Service office and a Purple Heart recipient.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Borg said.

Our Lady Queen of Peace in Richwood will honor veterans during a program at 8 a.m. All military are encouraged to come in uniform to be honored.

Brazosport ISD schools also have many programs lined up for Veterans Day. For a complete list, visit [www.brazosportisd.net](http://www.brazosportisd.net).

Kellie McKnight is a reporter at The Facts. Contact her at 979-237-0150.

Patriot

tough STUFF

boot camp



# Sweeny



## VETERANS DAY



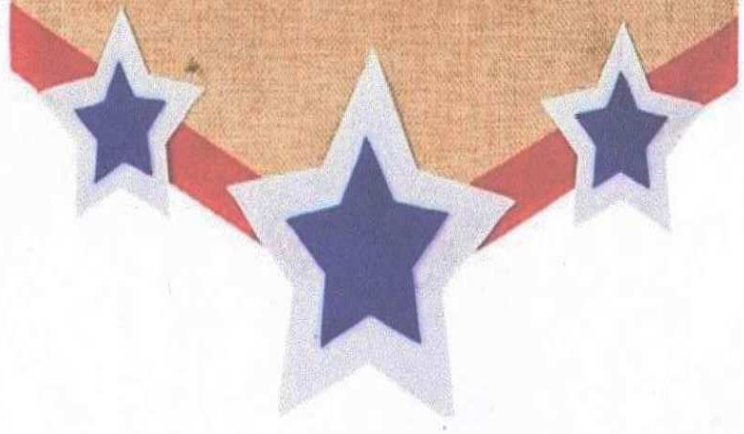
# HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

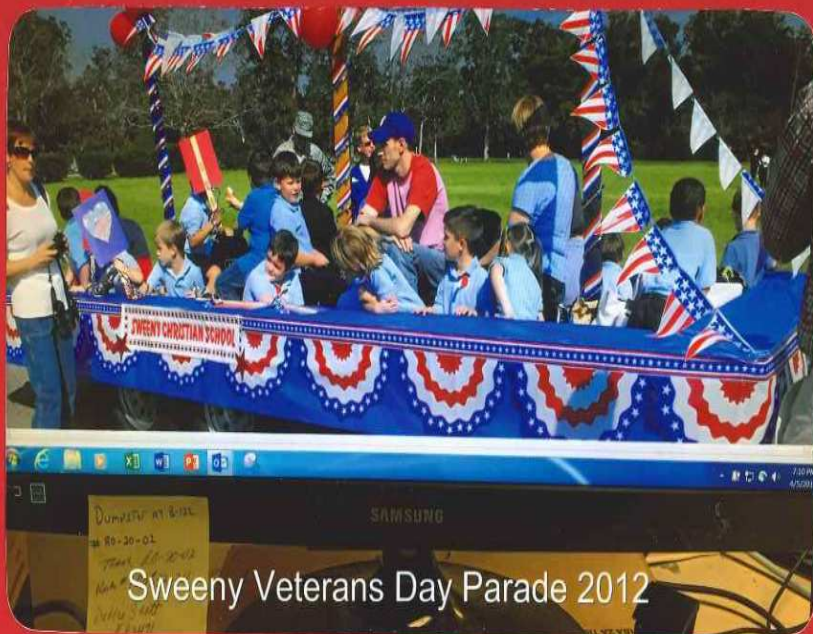
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VETERAN  
&  
PROUD

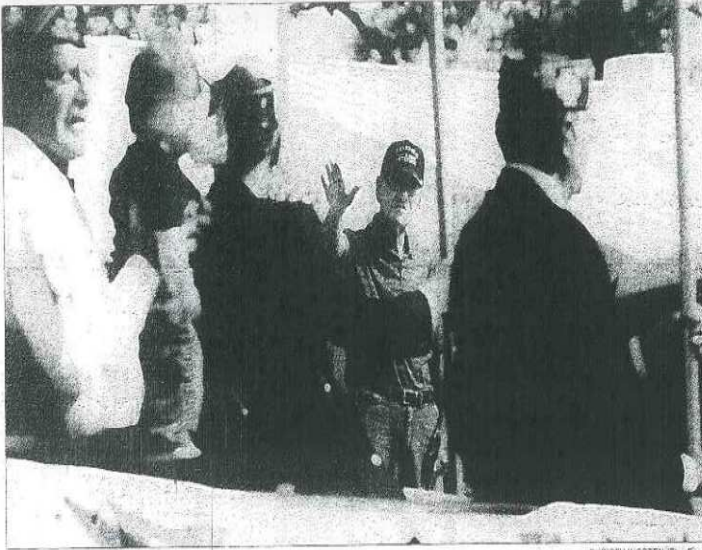




Sweeny Veterans Day Parade 2012







Korean War veteran Dan Ellis, second from right, waves Wednesday to passing floats during the Veterans Day parade in Sweeney. Ellis was in Korea for about 16 months in 1953-54, serving in the Army's 7th Division, 48th Field Artillery Unit.

# A SALUTE TO SERVICE

Residents turn out for Veterans Day events

"It's about being able to come home, see your wife and see your kids growing up to become adults."

— John Follett, former staff sergeant, U.S. Marines

By NATHANIEL LUKEFAHR  
nathaniel.lukefahr@the-facts.com

**SWEENEY**  
John Follett unlocked his arms and smiled as drumrolls slowly grew louder, matching the beat of quick, straight steps of hundreds of military veterans marching through the streets of Sweeney. As hundreds of full-sized and miniature American flags set up on roadways as part of



Sweeney Fire Department Captain Travis Nelson makes his way down a ladder Wednesday after helping hoist a large U.S. flag over Main Street.



The Brazoria County Cavalry leads the way down Main Street during the Veterans Day parade Wednesday in Sweeney.

"I wanted to show her what it means, because we did not know about it," Reyes said. "Now that you get older, you realize what they did and that it's important. And if we can get her to learn about it, she might be interested, too."

"It's to remember, not to forget," he said.

have to sacrifice."

Sweeney put together a full day of festivities for Veterans Day, starting with a veterans breakfast. The day's events wrapped up with a Veterans Day ceremony at Bulldog Stadium, where retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brett M. Dula spoke. Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Clarence Sasser attended as a guest.

"It's important to honor our veterans," Dula said. State Rep. Dennis Bonnen, R-Angleton, said Veterans Day is one of the most important days of the year.

"Many things in this great country are brought to us by veterans," he said. "The freedoms that we enjoy in this country — freedom of speech, freedom of building a business and entrepreneurship — are all protected by veterans and active-duty servicemen and women. There's no better day than the day that we honor and appreciate, recognize and thank them."

It was the West of the Brazos city's first chance to host the county's Veterans Day celebration, which moves to a different area each year.

Veterans Day Steering Committee Chairman John Hasso has been a part of the event for 11 years.

"I think Sweeney did a marvelous job," he said. "I am very proud of the city of Sweeney for coming out and hosting the veterans."

After the ceremony came a close, Veterans Day Host Committee member Rodney Weems assessed the day. Weems, an Air Force veteran, emceed the ceremony.

"The overall message is to honor veterans on this day, and I thought that was done extremely well," he said.

Doni Westbrook, a Sweeney resident, said she attended the parade to take in the sights and sounds and pay tribute to veterans. She has many friends and family who joined the military.

"If it wasn't for soldiers and God, we would not have what we have today," she said. "What they did keeps us free, and that's important."

Nathaniel Lukefahr covers Sweeney for The Facts. Contact him at 979-237-0151.

# Grand marshal on top of Veterans Day parade

**VETERANS DAY FESTIVITIES**

- Breakfast, 7 to 9 a.m. at VFW Post 8551
- Parade, 11 a.m. in Sweeney
- Ceremony, 1 p.m. at Bulldog Stadium

Details, GA

**Sweeney resident fought during Battle of the Bulge.**

By NATHANIEL LUKEFAHR  
nathaniel.lukefahr@the-facts.com

**SWEENEY** — Even a commanding officer couldn't stop Leroy

Walker from fighting for our freedom. Awaiting transport to America after shrapnel ripped open his scalp in October 1944, Walker defied orders to stay in the hospital when German troops began firing bombs at soldiers.

See PARADE, Page 2A



Leroy Walker, 86, of Sweeney will be this year's grand marshal at the Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade.

# Sweeney to host county Veterans Day festivities

The Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade/Ceremony Host Committee announces details for today's Veterans Day celebration, including three events to commemorate the day.

Sweeney-West Columbia VFW Post 8551 will host a veterans breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. at the post, Highway 35 at PM 1459. All veterans are invited regardless of VFW eligibility status.

The parade will start at 11 a.m. in recognition of the signing of "The Armistice Agreement" between the German Army and Allied Forces represented by the United States, France and Great Britain. The signing was the 11th hour, 11th day and 11th month of 1918. Staging for the parade will start at 9 a.m. on FM 524 and north of Ashley Wilson Road in Sweeney.

The parade will start at FM 524 (Main Street) and Ashley Wilson Road and continue south until it reaches FM 1459 (Second Street). At Second Street, the parade will turn left and continue for two blocks then make a left on Elm Street. It will proceed north on Elm until it ends at Frisky Lane between the football stadium and the junior high school.

Parts of Main, Second and Elm streets will be closed from 10:45 a.m. until about 12:30 p.m. Also, FM 524 at Highway 35 and FM 521, and FM 1459 at Highway 35 will be closed to through traffic from 9 a.m. until about 12:30 p.m. The closings will help ensure the safety of the staging area and parade route.

The day's events will conclude with a Veterans Day ceremony at the Sweeney High School football stadium. The ceremony will run from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Brett M. Dula will speak.

Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Clarence Sasser will attend the event. The Army veteran was awarded the medal "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty, Dien Tuong Province, Republic of Vietnam, January (01st), 1968." An Apache helicopter from Ellington Field in Houston will fly over.

For information, call Sue Ellen Neatherly at 979-548-3249 or e-mail [sweeneychamber@windstream.net](mailto:sweeneychamber@windstream.net).

**WEST COLUMBIA American Legion post to present program**

The 2009 Veterans Day program presented by the American Legion, Mattison-Ringgold Post 503 is set for 9 a.m. today in the post's hall, 213 S. 14th St. in West Columbia. The time and location have been changed from previous years to help accommodate the countywide Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony in Sweeney.

The ceremony will include the reading of names from newly installed plaques honoring Sullivan Collier and Keltor Chancellor as well as servicemen from this area who were killed in action or held as prisoners of war.

Active duty servicemen, veterans, family members and friends are invited to attend.

# Parade

CONTINUED FROM COVER

"He told his captain that if he saw anyone from his unit, he was going back," Walker's wife, Sue, said with a laugh. "His captain said he couldn't because he couldn't wear his helmet, but he said he'll put it on the side of his head and left and rejoined his unit."

Leroy Walker, 86, will be the grand marshal of the annual countywide Veterans Day parade in Sweeney, which is set to begin 11 a.m. today at FM 524 and Ashley Wilson Road and wind to Bulldog Stadium. Sue Walker, who spoke on her husband's behalf because he has trouble hearing, said it is a great honor for the Purple Heart recipient.

"He plans to enjoy the day," she said.

Levi Swinford, a U.S. Marine who died in 1967, is an honorary grand marshal.

Sweeney has put together a full day of festivities for Veterans Day, which begin at 7 a.m. with the Veterans breakfast and conclude with a ceremony, Sweeney Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Sue Anne Neatherly said. It is the West of the Brazos city's first time to host the event, which moves to a different city in the county each year.

Leroy Walker is Neatherly's father, though that did not play a role in the decision to name him grand marshal, city officials said.

Leroy Walker was in the military March 12, 1943, until Jan. 22, 1946, and served in the battle of the Bulge, Sue Walker said. He was in Germany for about 18 months, including nine months of combat.

Leroy and Sue Walker married on March 22,

1946, and moved to Sweeney in 1948, Sue Walker said. He worked at the Freeport Sulfur Co. for many years after finishing his military service.

Neatherly did not know much about her father's military exploits growing up, saying he was more known as a loving father to three children than a war hero.

"He's been a hero to us, but I never considered him any differently than any other person that served in the military," Neatherly said. "He was just my Daddy, and I did not have a clue what all he saw and survived and experienced until last December."

But being grand marshal is wonderful, she said.

"It's humbling," Neatherly said.

The parade will begin at FM 524 and Ashley Wilson, going south until it reaches FM 1459, where it will turn left and go two blocks, making another left on Elm Street, Neatherly said. It will continue down Elm Street to Frisky Lane, between the football field and junior high.

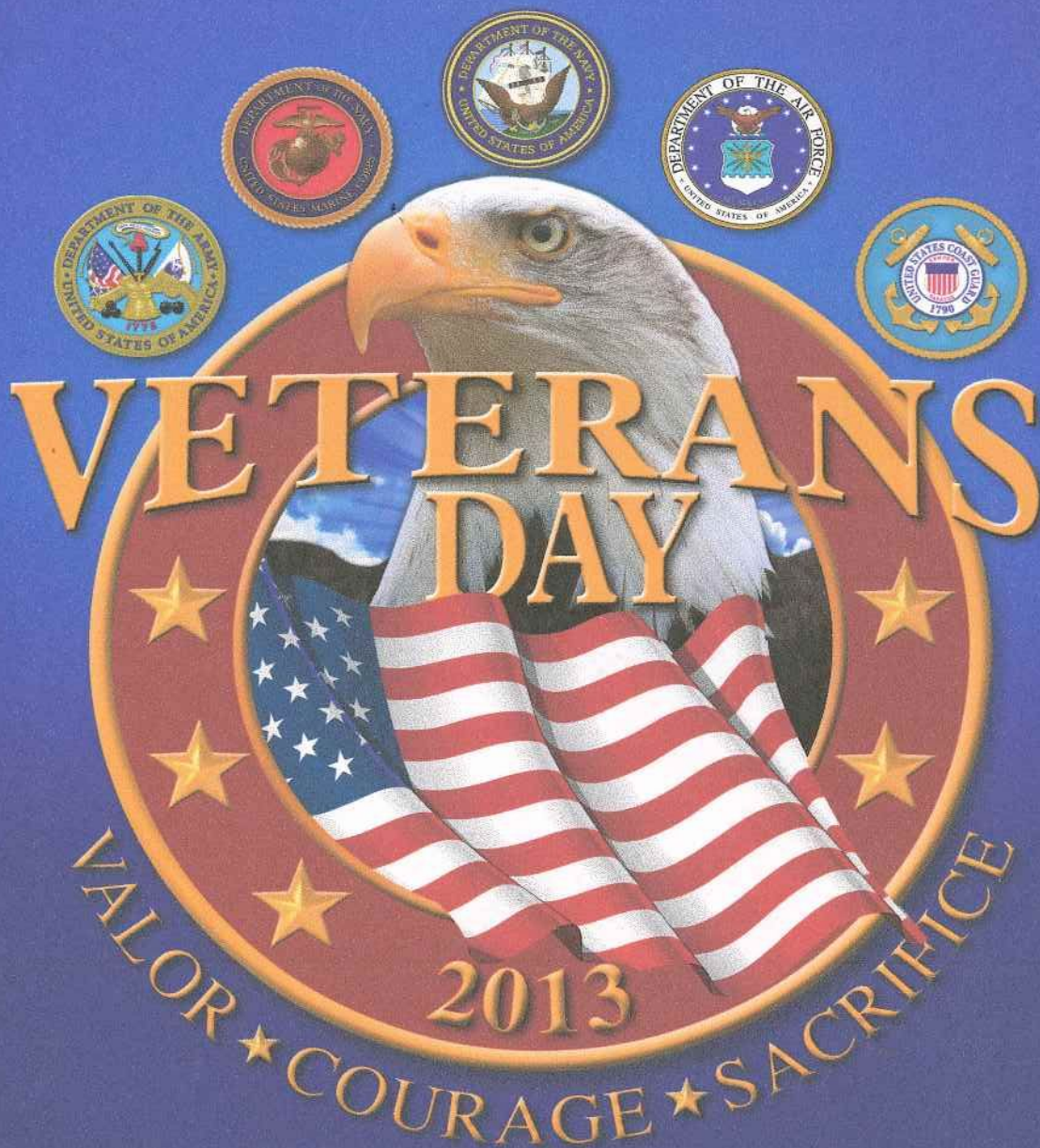
FM 524, Second and Elm streets will be closed from 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in preparation for the parade, a Sweeney police spokesman said. Additionally, FM 524 at Highway 35 and FM 1459 at Highway 35 will close to through traffic from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to ensure the safety of both the staging area and parade route.







# Brazoria



NOVEMBER 11, 2013  
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



**VETERANS DAY**  
**Honoring All Who Served**

**Army ★ Marines ★ Navy ★ Air Force ★ Coast Guard**



No one has greater love than this,  
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

## Events

CONTINUED FROM COVER

After that, a ceremony is planned at Veterans Memorial Park on Highway 35, between 14th and 15th streets, he said.

That program will feature a bugler playing "Taps," guest speaker Columbia-Brazoria ISD Superintendent Steve Galloway and a reading of an original poem.

"We have two ceremonies there a year, one on Memorial Day and the other on Veterans Day," he said. "After that, we're going to Brazoria and will participate in the parade."

Other Veterans Day activities include:

**ALVIN:** The placing of a wreath at 11 a.m. between Buildings A and B at Alvin Community College, 3110 Mustang Road. Joe Camacho, president of the Student Veterans Association, will speak.

**ANGLETON:** American Legion Post 241 and VFW Post 10378 will host a ceremony at 7 a.m. at Angleton Cemetery on Angleton Road. It will include a prayer, a 21-gun salute and a flag ceremony. Afterward, guests will be asked to assist in placing flags on the graves of veterans.

**BRAZORIA:** A free breakfast for all veterans is set for 7 to 9 a.m. in the cafeteria at the Brazoria Civic Center, 202 Smith St.

Also, at 2 p.m. at West Brazos Junior High School, 113 Roubabout Drive, a Veterans Day program will be presented by SOAR.

**CLUTE:** The Brazosport Elks Lodge, 201 N. Brazosport Blvd., has planned a free spaghetti lunch for all veterans from 1 to 3 p.m.

**FREEPORT:** At 12:45 p.m. at Lanier Middle School, 522 N. Ave. B, a Veterans Day celebration is planned. All veterans and active-duty personnel and their families are invited.

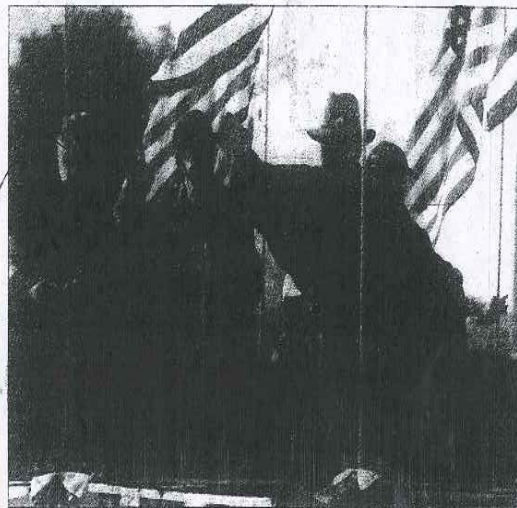
**SWEENEY:** Veterans Day programs will be presented at 9 a.m. at Sweeney Elementary School, 709 Sycamore St., and at 2:50 p.m. at Sweeney Junior High School, 800 Elm St. Veterans and the public are invited.

# SACRED SALUTE

County marks Veterans Day



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Local veterans wave at parade-goers Friday as they ride down Highway 36 in Brazoria during the Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade. TOP: Sgt. Maj. Jason Stanley with the U.S. Army speaks during Friday's Veterans Day event at the Brazoria Civic Center. Stanley is a Brazoria native who works at the Pentagon.

By ALAN NIESCHWITZ  
alan.nieschwitz@thefacts.com

### BRAZORIA

**T**hey put their time in to make sure America was safe, and Friday was the day everyone else got a chance to show their appreciation.

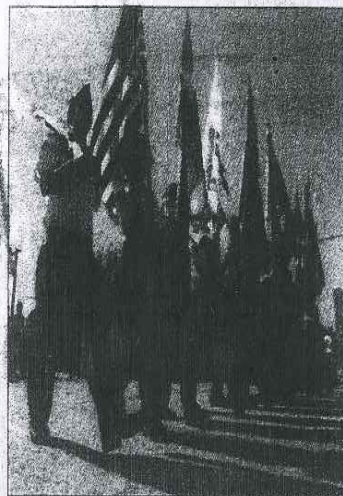
"It's our one day of the year to honor veterans. We say thank you, thank you, thank you," Mayor Ken Corley said in his opening remarks at the Brazoria Civic Center in a program that followed the annual Veterans Day Parade.

Filled with patriotic songs and speeches, several hundred were in attendance.

It was an extra-special event for Corley because his son-in-law, Army Sgt. Major Jason Stanley, currently serving a tour at the Pentagon, gave the keynote speech.

"As a serviceman, I am so very humbled by the patriotism I see here," Stanley said. Speaking to veterans in the audience, he said, "Your past service represents the best of America."

Until just a couple of years



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Members of the Brazoswood High School ROTC march in Friday's Veterans Day parade in Brazoria.

ago, he always declined invitations to join service-related organizations, saying he didn't believe he had the time.

During a stint in El Paso

when he was attending the sergeant major academy, he had a change of heart and

See HONORS, Page 10A

## No shortage of ways to pay tribute

By ALAN NIESCHWITZ  
alan.nieschwitz@thefacts.com

**BRAZORIA** — More than 40 vehicles and floats were registered to participate in the countywide Veterans Day parade planned for today in Brazoria, but city officials expected many more.

By the time the parade starts rolling, the number of entries likely will be 50 or more, City Manager Teresa Borders said.

The parade is set to begin at 11 a.m. today on Highway 36, starting at McCoy's and moving north to the Brazoria Heritage Foundation.

"It looks like everything is going well," Borders said. "It's going to be a pretty big parade."

New to the parade this year will be Brazoria veterans serving as grand marshals. Borders didn't have a count, but said the city had a big response and they ultimately waived the requirement that veterans participating as grand marshals had to live within the city limits.

"We have one trailer for the in-city ones and another one for the ones who are in the county," Borders said.

After the parade, a free hot dog lunch will be served at the Brazoria Civic Center, and at 1 p.m., a program will feature Sgt. Maj. Jason Stanley, a Brazoria County native assigned to The Pentagon, as keynote speaker.

Earlier in West Columbia, a free breakfast will be served to veterans and their spouses from 7 to 8:30 a.m. at the Christian Senior Citizen Center at 629 East Bernard St., said Sandy Werns, an organizer of the city's Veterans Day events.

See EVENTS, 3A

## Honors

CONTINUED FROM COVER

joined the Special Forces Association, Stanley said.

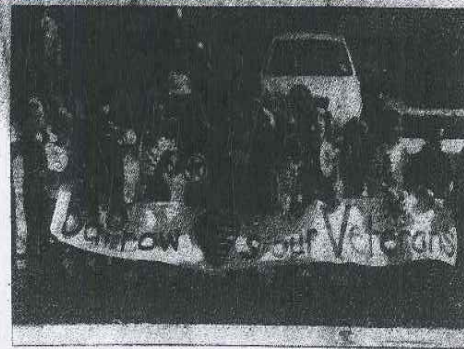
The group welcomed troops home from overseas, and he went with them once, he said. A combat veteran himself, Stanley said the experience had a profound effect on him.

"It was the first time I was able to see the war from a civilian's perspective," he said. "They taught this active duty, noncommissioned officer how to take care of the troops."

When it was local veteran and former history teacher Bill James' chance to speak, he spoke about the American identity.

"The country was not built by men who relied on somebody else," he said. "This self-reliance is our American heritage."

"Some folks call us idealists, and maybe that's



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Students from Barrow Elementary School hold a sign showing their love and support for area veterans during Friday's Veterans Day Parade in Brazoria.

true," James said. "America is the only idealistic country in the world."

Hundreds of folks lined the street to watch the county's annual Veterans Day Parade wind its way through downtown, and many agreed it was an impressive event.

"It's pretty big," said Joseph Jackson, "I was surprised at how big it was."

A Korean War veteran who said he attends the parade every year, no matter what town plays host, Jackson said he was "really impressed" by the 45-minute long procession.

Across the street, Linda Huebner was even more enthusiastic.

"It's the best parade I ever saw in this county," she said. "Thank God it was for the veterans. They deserve it."

Every community from Alvin southward had at least one group represented.

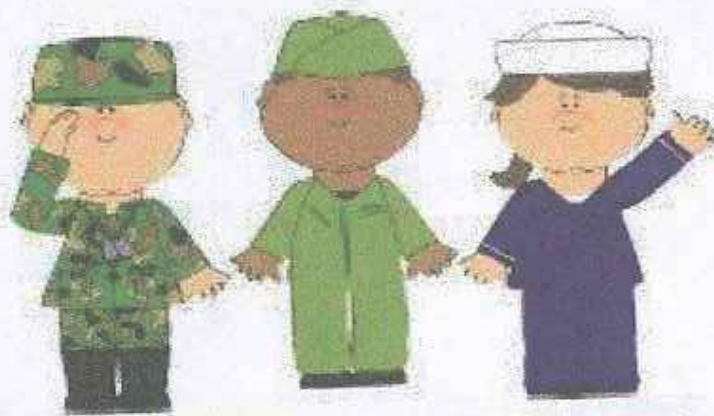
That was something that made it even more special, said Penn Johnson, who came to support his brother, a Vietnam War veteran and participant.

"It was great," he said. "I'm glad all the communities got together and made one big, nice occasion."

# Veterans Day

By: Cheryl Dyson

On Veterans Day we honor all,  
Who answered to a service call.  
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,  
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.  
Some have lived, while others died,  
And all of them deserve our pride.  
We're proud of all the soldiers who,  
Kept thinking of red, white, and blue.  
They fought for us and all our rights,  
They fought through many days and nights.  
And though we may not know each name,  
We thank **ALL** veterans just the same.



# Jones Creek

*HONOR ★ COURAGE ★ LOYALTY*

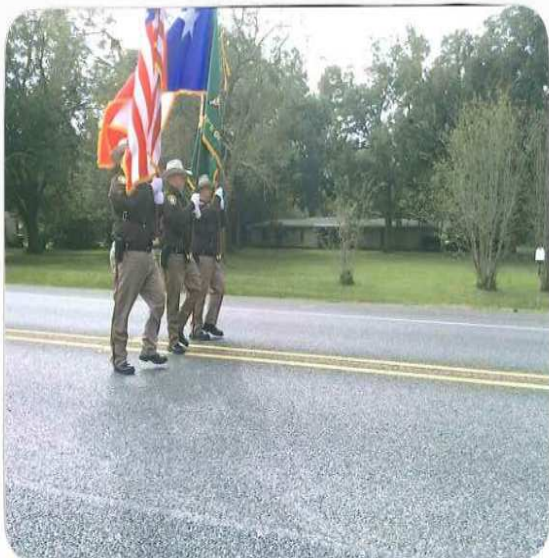
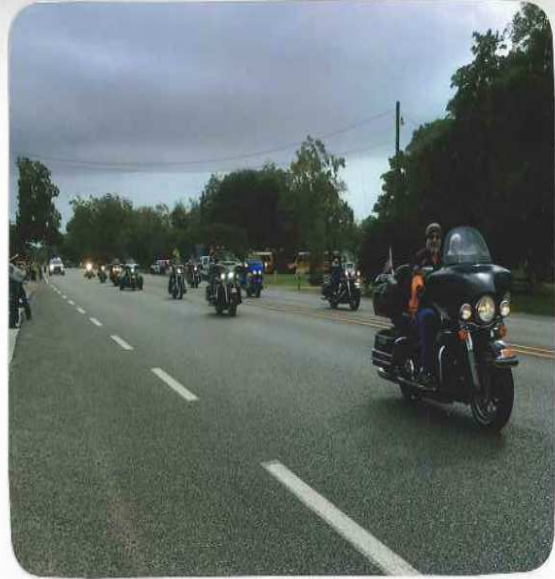


*VETERANS DAY 2014*

*HONORING ALL WHO SERVED*

*NOVEMBER 11, 2014*







SARAH RENCUREL/The Facts

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary wave to the crowd Tuesday as their float drives down Highway 36 in Jones Creek during the Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade. MIDDLE: World War II veteran Raymond Smith of Jones Creek, the grand marshal, waves to the crowd as he leads the Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade down Highway 36 in Jones Creek.

# BIGSALUTE

## Annual Veterans Day Parade rolls through Jones Creek

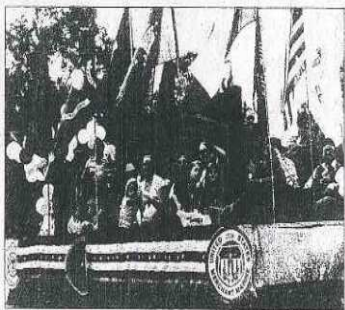
By LANCE REAVES  
lance.reaves@thefacts.com

JONES CREEK — The population in one of the county's smallest communities swelled Tuesday as Jones Creek played first-time host of the annual Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade.

"It was wonderful, couldn't have been better," said Tracy Read, founder of the Brazoria County Calvary. The military-supporting organization participates each year, and members once again led the parade on their motorcycles.

Onlookers parked on the roadside and waved their American flags while the motorcycles, floats, bands, military vehicles, firetrucks, Brazoswood ROTC and many more patriotic groups marched through the streets. Two airplanes flew overhead, while sirens wailed, horns honked and the motorcycles' engines roared.

Honorary parade deputy Evan Cruz, 10, rode the parade route in a golf cart



SARAH RENCUREL/The Facts

Members of the Brazoria County Cavalry wave to the crowd Tuesday as their float moves down Highway 36 in Jones Creek. BELOW: Lynn Melton, 5, waves a U.S. flag during the parade.

alongside his parents, Cynthia and Emiliano, thanking each veteran they passed for his or her service.

"It's fun and I'm glad that I'm in it," Evan said.

Wearing his department shirt and badge, the Brazosport Christian School student's responsibilities included helping at the Veterans Day breakfast, handing out bracelets.

See PARADE, Page 8A



SARAH RENCUREL/The Facts

## Parade

CONTINUED FROM COVER

from February 1942 until December 1945.

"It made a man out of me. I was just an ol' farm boy from New Mexico when the war broke out, working on a ranch," he said.

The 94-year-old was a squad leader stationed in various countries across the Pacific. He served as a machine-gunner, a responsibility that came with its fair share of hazards.

"They used to say that man had a 3-minute life span, but I came out alive. I didn't get a scratch," he said.

After Tidwell notified him last week about his selection as grand marshal, Smith slipped on his World War II veteran's hat, gathered some of his old war memorabilia and reminisced at village hall about the years he spent serving America.

The former Dow employee showed a picture of his regiment at Fort Lewis, Washington, just after basic training in 1942.

Almost three-quarters of a century later, he can still point to specific soldiers and



LANCE REAVES/The Facts

Raymond Smith shows some of the medals he earned during his service in World War II. Among them is a Bronze Star, the military's fourth-highest individual award.

remember their names. He even found his own young face in the crowd.

"My first payday was \$21, and I went and had that picture made," he said, referencing another black-and-white photograph showing him in uniform just after he joined the Army.

Smith later reached for a small box where his dog tags, military stripes and several medals rested. One medal was a Bronze Star,

the military's fourth-highest individual award.

"I helped save a man's life," he said.

While stationed in Negros Island in the Philippines, Smith said his squadron was climbing a mountain when Japanese soldiers, perched on higher ground, began firing mortars down at his men.

One of the explosions wounded a man's hip, with the opposition closing in. "I had to scatter my

squadron, and then four men carried him in a stretcher down the mountain. We got him out and behind the line where the ambulance could pick him up," he said.

Smith is proud of the accomplishment, but often shies away from drawing too much attention to himself.

"I'm not one to talk about it much. It just kinda sounds like you're patting yourself on the back. I just did what I had to do," he said.

The annual Brazoria County Veterans Day parade begins at 11 a.m. today at Stephen F. Austin Elementary in Jones Creek, 7351 Stephen F. Austin Road, and ends at Jones Creek First Baptist Church, 7334 Highway 36.

Organizers will provide a free breakfast to veterans from 7:30 to 9 a.m. in the First Baptist Church gym.

The elementary school students have a program prepared at 1 p.m., and volunteers are serving hot dogs for lunch.

All military veterans are encouraged to attend.

Lance Reaves is a reporter for The Facts. Contact him at 979-237-0154.

## Parade

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Dieters and greeting village residents or guests who arrived to enjoy the day.

"It was really neat to be at the breakfast this morning and hear some of the veterans sharing their stories with each other," Cynthia Cruz said.

When the parade reached the Jones Creek First Baptist Church, fourth- and fifth-graders from Stephen F. Austin Elementary School provided a program in the church's gym.

The students — many of whom dressed in military outfits for the occasion — sang songs, read personal essays, recited speeches and gave gifts to the veterans and other audience members.

One of the program's highlights included the students singing the theme song from branch of the Armed Forces, while veterans from that branch stood and saluted. The Brazoswood ROTC members marched down the aisle during the songs holding a flag representing each military branch.

"They've been practicing that since last year," said Jones Creek Marshal William Tidwell, an event organizer who played an integral role in bringing the parade to his village. "We're very proud of our kids, our school and our community."

Jones Creek resident Rocky Thomas Sr., whose son, U.S. Army veteran Brad Thomas, rode in a parade float Tuesday spoke during the program about the significance behind the "Missing Man Table and Honors," which sat in the corner of the gym.

"This is observed to honor the missing soldiers, the brave men and woman who answered the nation's call to serve," he said.

While expressing his pride in the village's service as host city this year, Jones Creek Mayor



SARAH RENCUREL/The Facts

People gather along Highway 36 in Jones Creek to watch the floats and pay tribute to veterans and active-duty service members Tuesday during the annual Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade.

symbolism of each item on the table.

U.S. Navy veteran Andy Anderson, who organized the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall's presentation in Lake Jackson last month, said Veterans Day returned his thoughts to the memorial and the men he met while bringing it to Brazoria County.

"I just think about seeing the guys and talking to them. I saw a change in some of them while we were putting up that wall," he said.

When the program ended, John Jasso, the founder and chairman of the Brazoria County Veterans Steering Organization, walked over to Tidwell, placed his arm around him and thanked the parade organizer.

Jasso said he enjoys seeing the county's smaller communities host the parade.

"That's why we change cities with the parade every year, because it gives everyone a chance to show their appreciation," he said. "People really come out in force."

While expressing his pride in the village's service as host city this year, Jones Creek Mayor



SARAH RENCUREL/The Facts

Two-year-old Aidolyn Melton waves to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary after they toss her some candy from their float Tuesday.



SARAH RENCUREL/The Facts

World War II veteran and Grand Marshal Raymond Smith waves to the crowd as he leads the parade in Jones Creek.

aged the audience to continue honoring the country's military when Veterans Day ends.

"There is no doubt the veterans saved the way the memorials in Jones Creek remind us of just that," he said.

Lance Reaves is a reporter for The Facts. Contact him at

## Thomas

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Thomas suffered a severe brain injury when he was injured by a roadside bomb while deployed to Iraq in January 2008. He requires constant care, and lives with his family in Jones Creek in a 4,500-square-foot home designed specifically to meet his medical needs.

A Houston-based nonprofit organization and other fundraising efforts helped provide it.

"He's showing improvement. With this type of injury, every little step is a big step," said his mother, Veronica Thomas.

Brad Thomas officially retired from the military in January. During his time back home, Veronica said he has surpassed all the doctors' original expectations.

"We're very blessed," said his father, Rocky Thomas Sr.

The Thomases credit their son's strength as the driving force behind his progress.

Despite the serious injury, Brad Thomas is aware of his surroundings, and his interaction

with others has improved over the past two years, Veronica said.

Some days are better than others, but the family focuses on each blessing, Veronica said, as she pointed to a sign over his physical therapy room that reads, "Every day holds a possibility for a miracle."

"With Bradley, it's a slow process, but there's been a lot of positives," she said. "This is about quality of life."

When the village honors the county's military veterans, today's parade will pass near his house.

"Every day is Veterans Day to us. We just look at the day as a time to thank them," Veronica said. "Their sacrifices are why we have the freedom we do today."

The community gave Thomas a well-deserved hero's welcome two years ago when he returned to Jones Creek. Veronica said this support has been essential.

"We have a tight-knit community here, that's why we wanted him to come home," she said. "We've always said the healing truly began when he got home."

## VETERANS DAY 2014 HONORING THEIR SERVICE



LANCE REAVES/The Facts

Raymond Smith holds a picture taken when he was a 21-year-old soldier in the U.S. Army during World War II. The long-time Jones Creek resident is serving as Grand Marshal of the Brazoria County Veterans Day parade today.

## 'I just did what I had to'

Parade grand marshal remains humble about World War II heroics

OFFICIAL EVENTS

Jones Creek hosts today's county Veterans Day activities.

JONES CREEK — When Marshal William Tidwell learned the village would be given its first turn hosting the county's annual Veterans Day parade, his next move was finding a grand marshal.

He only had to search a couple blocks from Jones Creek Village Hall to find one.

"We chose Raymond because of his service time. We're proud of his service, and we wanted to recognize him," Tidwell said.

Raymond Smith has lived in Jones Creek for more than 50 years. He was just 21 years old when he received his World War II draft notice, and he served in the U.S. Army

11 a.m. start at Stephen F. Austin Elementary, 7351 Stephen F. Austin Road, to Jones Creek First Baptist Church, 7334 Highway 36. Program follows at

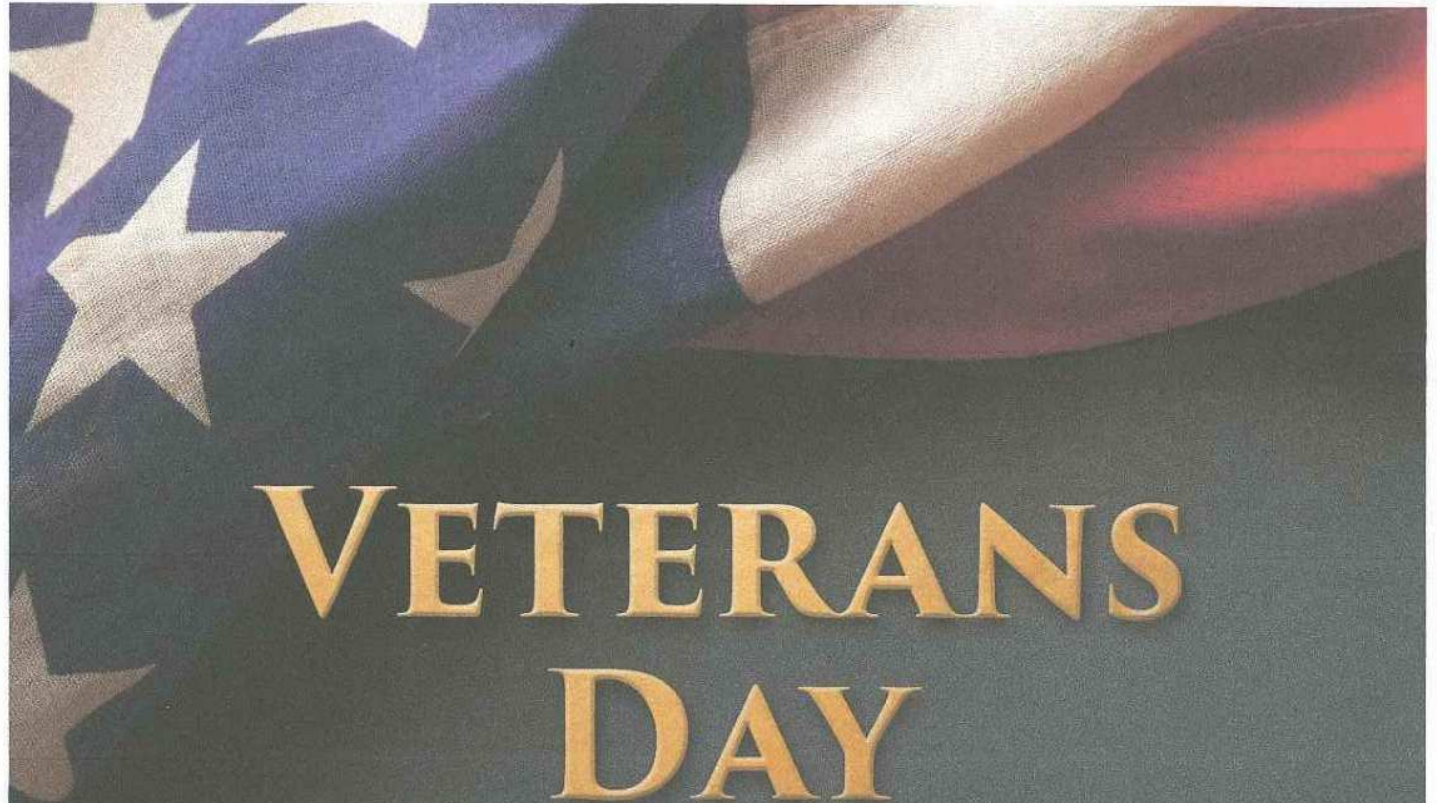
See PARADE, Page 8A







# Angleton



# VETERANS DAY

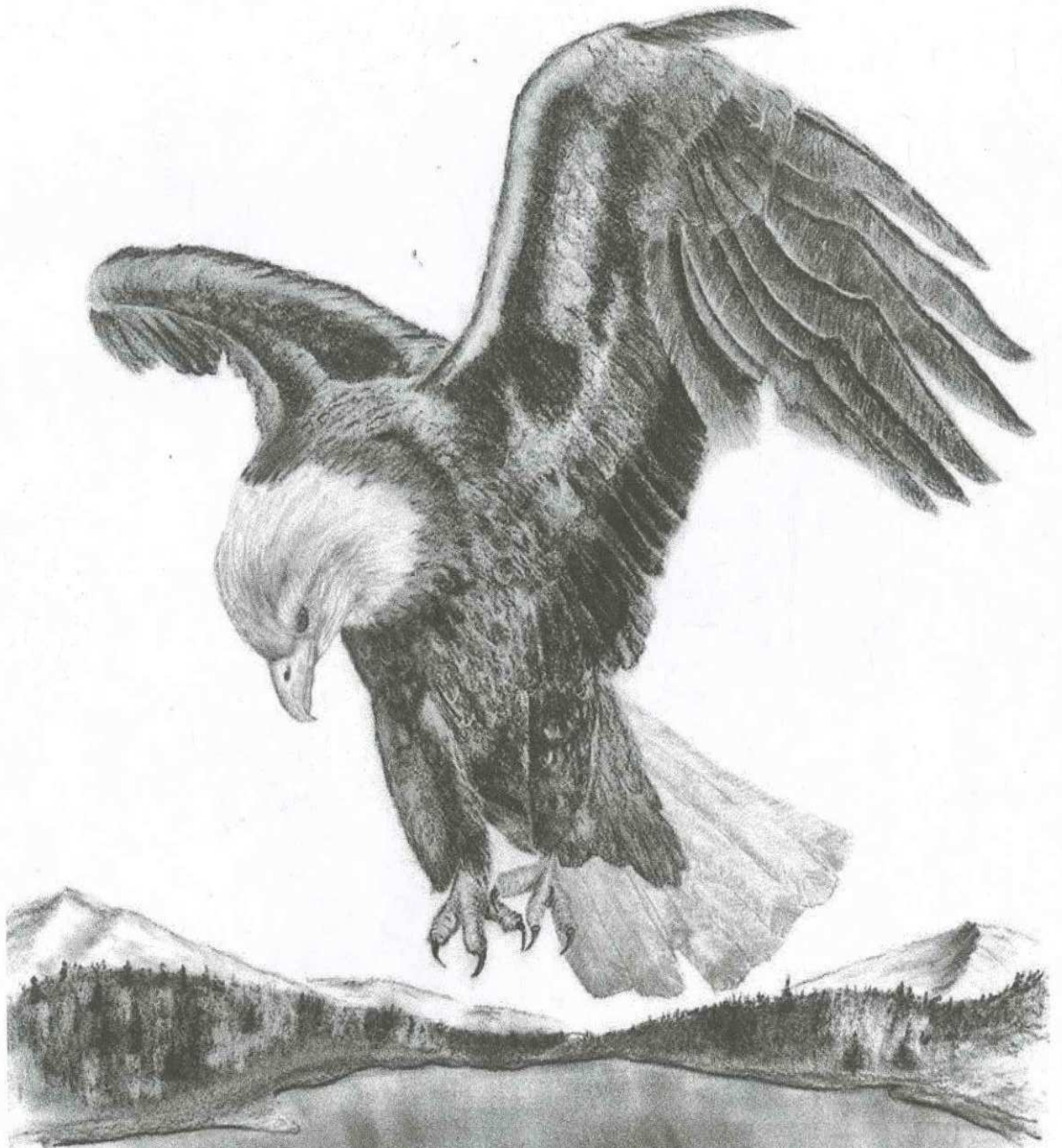
NOVEMBER 11, 2015



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED  
IN TIMES OF WAR - IN TIMES OF PEACE



[WWW.VA.GOV](http://WWW.VA.GOV)



# They guard the Tomb of the Unknowns

By Tom Purcell

Special to the Bulletin

Hurricane Isabel struck Washington, D.C., hard that night.

It was Sept. 18, 2003. I lived in Alexandria, Va., at the time. I rode out the storm reading a book and enjoying a glass of wine.

At the Arlington National Cemetery, just a few miles from where I sat, the sentinels who stand guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns were having an entirely different experience.

The Tomb of the Unknowns was established in 1921. Three of its chambers contain the remains of unknown soldiers from World War I, World War II and Korea (a fourth chamber had contained the remains of an unknown soldier from the Vietnam war until DNA technology determined his identity).

Only the finest soldiers are selected to guard the Tomb. The sentinels are specially trained soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). They

watch over the Tomb 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As each solitary guard paces before the Tomb, his movements are precise, his dress impeccable.

Each guard's dedication is made clear by the Sentinel's Creed:

- My dedication to this sacred duty is total and wholehearted.
- In the responsibility bestowed on me never will I falter.
- And with dignity and perseverance my standard will remain perfection.
- Through the years of diligence and praise and the discomfort of the elements,
- I will walk my tour in humble reverence to the best of my ability.
- It is he who commands the respect I protect.

His bravery that made us so proud.

Surrounded by well-meaning crowds by day, alone in the thoughtful peace of night, this

*(Continued on Page 15)*

# Honoring our veterans



paratroopers

MARINES

SEMPER FI

honor

RECRUIT

COURAGE

### HONORING OUR VETERANS 7

www.mybulletinnewspaper.com (979) 849-5407 November 10, 2015 THE BULLETIN Page 15

## The sentinels guarded the Tomb through the storm, honoring those who died defending our freedom

(Continued from Page 11)

soldier will in honored glory rest under my eternal vigilance. Which brings us back to Hurricane Isabel.

For the first time in the Tomb's history, in preparation of a potentially dangerous storm, the commanding officers established a contingency plan.

The sentinels were free to withdraw to safer positions under the Memorial Amphitheater arches or inside the trophy room should conditions become life-threatening -- positions from which they could still maintain their mission watching over the Tomb.

But none would leave.

It is a solemn duty to march before the Tomb, after all. The sentinel's meticulous ritual is an outward display of gratitude and remembrance for the sacrifices so many have made for their country -- particularly the unknown soldiers

who made the ultimate sacrifice.

By guarding the Tomb with eternal vigilance, the sentinel validates the words of the soldier's prayer:

"It is the soldier who has given us our freedoms. It's the soldier, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press. It's the soldier, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech. It's the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to object. It's the soldier, not the lawyer, who has given us the right to a fair trial..."

And so, as Hurricane Isabel struck -- 24 trees would be uprooted across the cemetery and three headstones would be crushed -- each sentinel took turns standing his ground.

There really was no other option. How could a sentinel retreat to safer ground in the midst of a dinky hurricane when so many others have given so much more?

It's true the hurricane could have

been plenty worse than it turned out to be. It's possible that life-threatening severity might have caused the sentinels to, for the first time since they began guarding the Tomb in 1948, maintain their mission from safer ground.

Though I doubt it.

We've gone through some wrenching political seasons -- some

folks are jubilant at the results, whereas others are deflated -- but despite the disagreement over policies and politics, I'm confident America will do the right thing over the long haul.

I'm confident America's best is yet ahead.

I believe this because virtue still lives in America. Honor, sacrifice

and duty are still alive and well.

If you don't believe me, pay a visit to the Arlington National Cemetery and stop by the Tomb of the Unknowns.

It is one place where American sacrifice, duty and honor are on full display 24 hours a day every day of the week.

©2015 Tom Purcell.



Valor

PEACE

# WWII veterans will be Grand Marshals at Angleton Parade

By Sharon Toth  
Bulletin Publisher

Brazoria County's annual Veterans Day Parade and Program will be held in the county seat this year, and it's sure to be one of the biggest yet with several high school bands participating in the parade and an estimated 5,000 Angleton ISD students attending the main ceremony.

Plus, some pupils will be participating in the program to be held at the new Angleton High School stadium.

### Free Breakfast

Wednesday, Nov. 11, (11/11) will kick off with a free breakfast for veterans and active military personnel at 7:30 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church at 219 N. Arcola. It is sponsored by BASF, and the Sweeny Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post and auxiliary members

will be helping at the breakfast. AISD students also will help to serve those being honored, and AISD elementary students will sing for those attending.

### Ring of Honor ceremony

Then at 9 a.m., there will be a ceremony at the Ring of Honor, the sculptural tribute to veterans and military on the grounds of the Court House on the Velasco Street/ 288-Business side. Veterans and students will be laying wreaths at the memorial, honoring each of the four branches of service - Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy.

### Parade

World War II veterans will be the Grand Marshals for the Parade, and some will ride on a float in the parade, which is scheduled for 10 a.m. Nov. 11.

Floats, vehicles and bands

will line up along Chenango St. behind the Court House and start at the corner of North Chenango, proceed down Cedar, then head east to Downing, and then go north on Downing to the new Wildcat Stadium.

The best places for viewing the parade will be on Downing, north of the AISD Administration Building with parking at the L.C. Edwards Little League Field as well as St. John's Lutheran Church at Downing and Hospital Dr. The City of Angleton's Freedom Park and Angleton Junior High School, located at Downing and Henderson Road, will also offer prime viewing, according to Glen Moody of the Charles Dixon American Legion Post in Angleton. Moody, owner of Moody & Sons Automotive Repair in Angleton, is one of the coordinators of the day's activities.

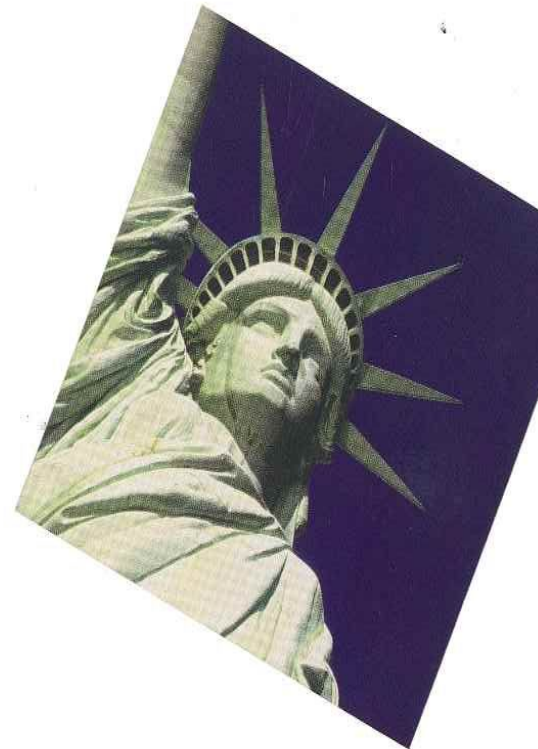
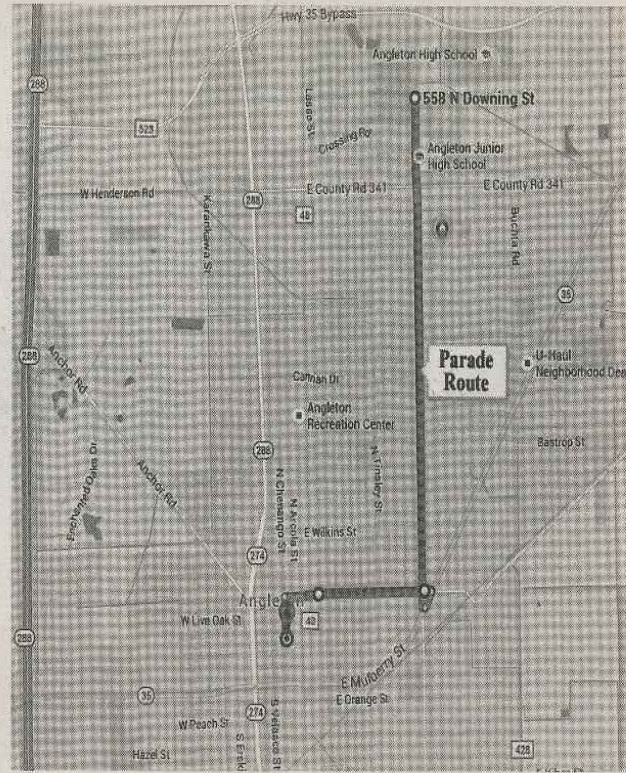
There will be a live feed of the parade on the Jumbotron screen at the stadium for those who prefer to head there instead and sit on the bleachers to watch the procession and remain there for the program.

At the end of the route, parade participants and viewers will then proceed to the stadium, where the county's tribute to veterans will start about 12:15 p.m.

"This year fifth-grade students from all the districts were invited to write essays about patriotism and being a veteran, and there are rewards for the best essay from each school," said Moody.

### Did you know?

- Today, there exists about 1.6 million female veterans.
- Approximately 90% of Disney employees worked in the making of propaganda and training videos during World War II.
- Veterans Day falls on the same day as Remembrance Day and Armistice Day in other countries.
- There is not supposed to be an apostrophe in Veterans Day. Still some spell it Veteran's Day or Veterans' Day.
- Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, came up with the idea to honor all veterans on Nov. 11, not just the ones who died in World War I.



# SHOW OF GRATITUDE

County salutes America's heroes with Angleton parade, ceremony

By ERINN CALLAHAN  
erin.callahan@thefacts.com

ANGLETON — Ryleigh Hendrix was ready. "We wave our flags when the horses come," the Angleton Christian School kindergartner said, practicing waving her American flag.

Ryleigh, 5, and her classmates lined the sidewalk across from Freedom Park in Angleton in anticipation of the annual Brazoria County Veterans Day parade, which the county seat played host to this year.

Ryleigh waved her flag especially high for her dad, an Army veteran who later this week will return from Iraq, where he is still working as a contractor.

"Too many days," Ryleigh said when asked how long her father had been away. "I don't even remember."

The official recognition kicked off early Wednesday in front of the Brazoria County Courthouse with a Ring of Honor ceremony, where students whose relatives have served in the military placed wreaths on the memorial.

Shortly after, motorcycles, floats, military vehicles and fire trucks — as well as bands from Alvin, Angleton, Brazosport, Columbia, Danbury and Manvel high schools — paraded through downtown Angleton on the way to Wildcat Stadium. Lights flashed, sirens wailed and motorcycles roared by as onlookers waved American flags and called out to people marching past.

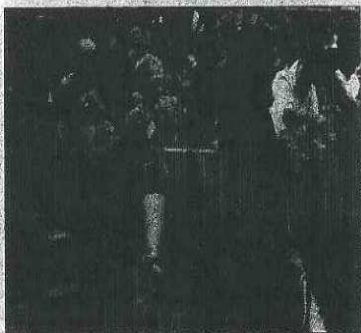
Westside Elementary students decorated their float with paper poppies, each one honoring a late ancestor who served in the military — an homage to the poem "In Flanders Fields," written during World War I.

World War II veteran Dick Moore never misses the county's events, but this year he and fellow members of the "Greatest Generation" had a place of honor as the parade's grand marshals.



SARAH RENOURREL/The Facts

Adrian Hemphill shakes hands with World War II veteran Charlie R. Boswell as she thanks him for his service Wednesday in Angleton. World War II veterans served as grand marshals of the countywide Veterans Day parade.



SARAH RENOURREL/The Facts

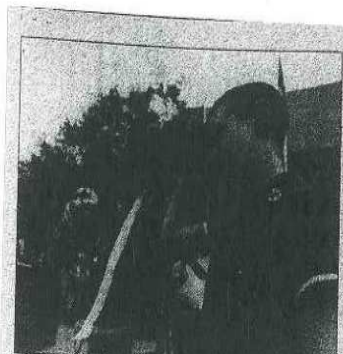
Ray Pearl Condry, 95, raises her hand in surprise as she is presented with the honor of being the oldest veteran in attendance during the Veterans Day ceremony Wednesday at Wildcat Stadium in Angleton.



SARAH RENOURREL/The Facts

World War II Merchant Marine veteran Dick Moore gives 3-year-old Lydia Hernandez a flag to wave Wednesday during the Veterans Day Ceremony at Wildcat Stadium in Angleton.

See PARADE, Page 3A



SARAH RENOURREL/The Facts

Seven-year-old Alvin Bennett smiles after placing a wreath in front of the Navy memorial Wednesday at the Brazoria County Ring of Honor at the Brazoria County Courthouse in Angleton.

## Parade

CONTINUED FROM COVER

"I make every Veterans Day," said Moore, who served 14 years as a Merchant Marine.

Moore waved as he rode down Downing Street, beaming as students chanted "USA" and called out thanks for the veterans' service.

"Thanks for your support," one World War II veteran called from the float.

After the parade concluded at Wildcat Stadium, World War II veterans watched from the field as members of the Brazoswood High School Junior ROTC saluted them. Angleton ISD students then sang the theme song from each branch of the Armed Forces while veterans from that branch stood and saluted. The Brazoswood ROTC members marched down the field during the songs, displaying a flag representing each military branch.

Members of the Brazoria County Combined Honor Guard recognized the winners of a countywide essay contest about the meaning of Veterans Day, presenting the elementary

school students with a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol.

"I'm hoping the tradition of getting the schools involved continues," said Honor Guard representative Harry Gaul, an Air Force veteran who served during the Vietnam War.

"I've seen in Brazoria County the progression from 'baby killer' to American hero. This is awesome. Thank you."

Westside Elementary second-grade teacher Scott Thompson, an Army veteran, stressed the day's significance to the thousands of students at the ceremony.

"We must ensure you students have an awareness of whom you should honor every day," Thompson said. "While veterans do not consider themselves superheroes, you have no idea how much your kind words mean to them."

Brazoria County Cavalry founder Tracy Read echoed Thompson's sentiment.

"Every day is Veterans Day," Read said. "Don't ever pass up an opportunity to thank a person for their service to our country."

Erinn Callahan is a reporter for The Facts. Contact her at 979-237-0150.



## ANGLETON STUDENTS HONOR VETERANS



Angleton ISD students and staff spent Veteran's Day honoring veterans and, due to their participation, received an honor themselves. Rick Drenner, from Gulf Coast Chevrolet, presented the Chevy Spotlight Award for community involvement to Superintendent Pat Montgomery, who accepted on behalf of the district. The students and staff spent the day focusing on vets by serving breakfast, helping at the Ring of Honor ceremony, participating in the parade,

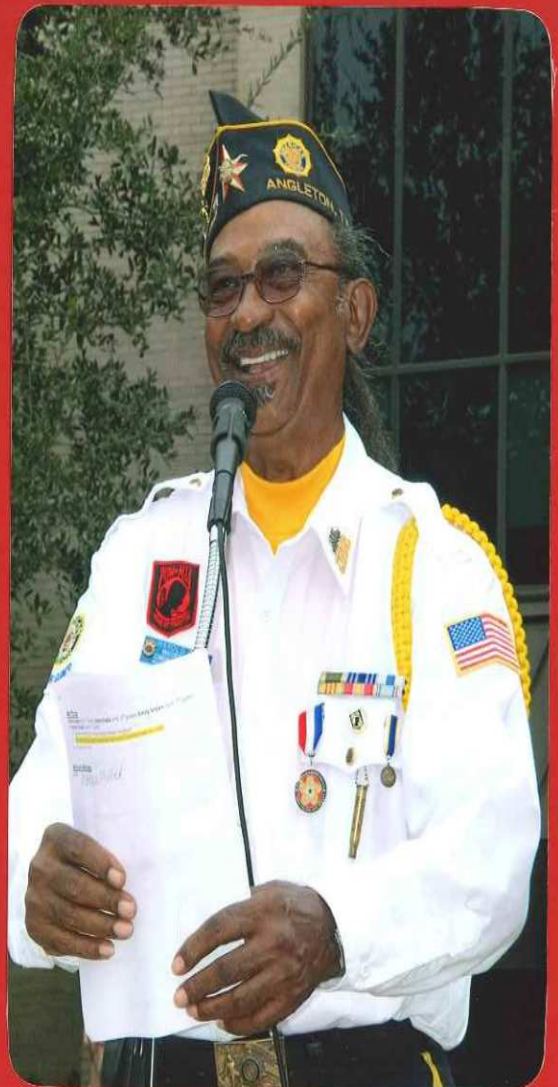
and performing for them at the stadium after the parade at a special ceremony.

Angleton ISD Public Relations spokesperson, Hanna Chalmers, said, "We wanted to make sure we showed veterans how much we appreciate them. The district wanted to honor them by involving as many students as we could, and in doing so we were hoping to educate the students about the importance of Veterans Day and our veterans."

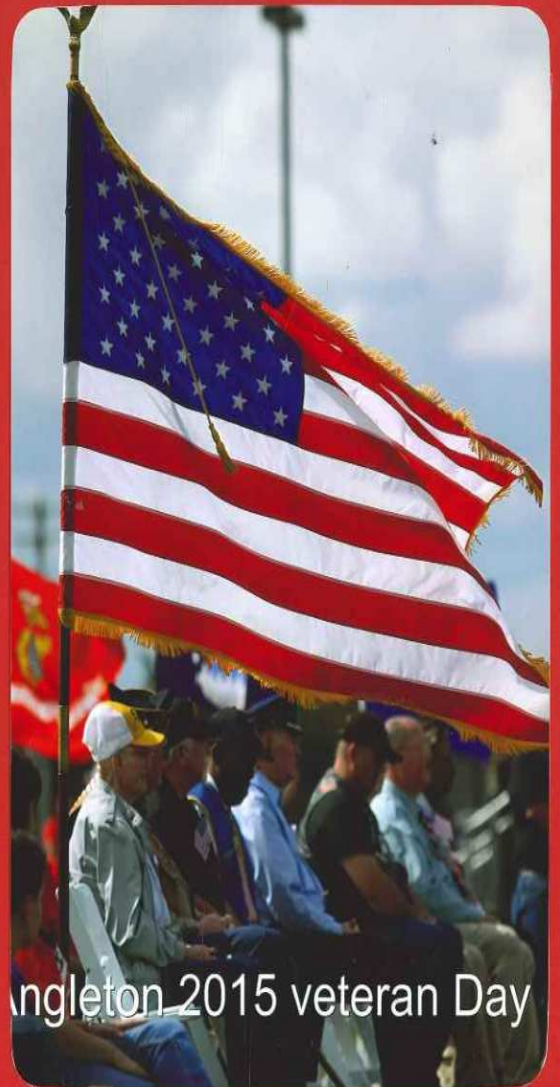
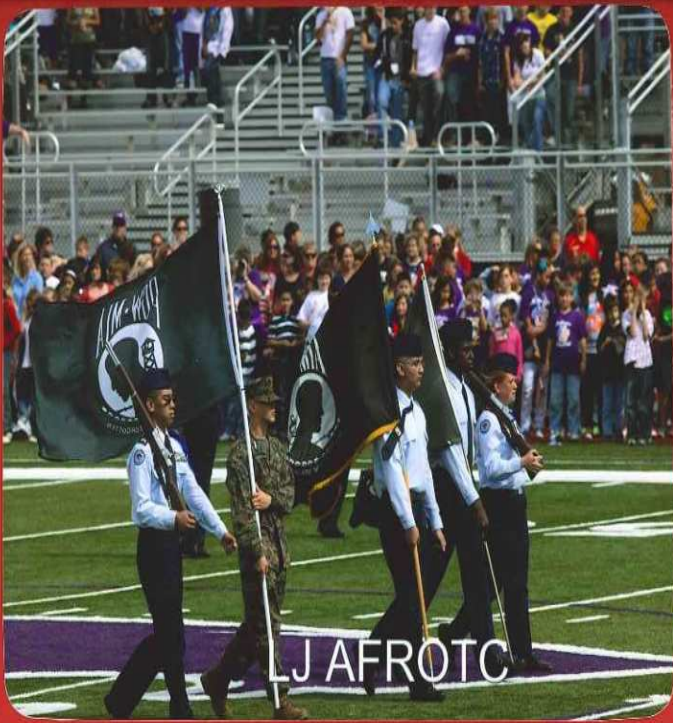
Information provided by Hanna Chalmers



Sheriff Honor Guard 2015

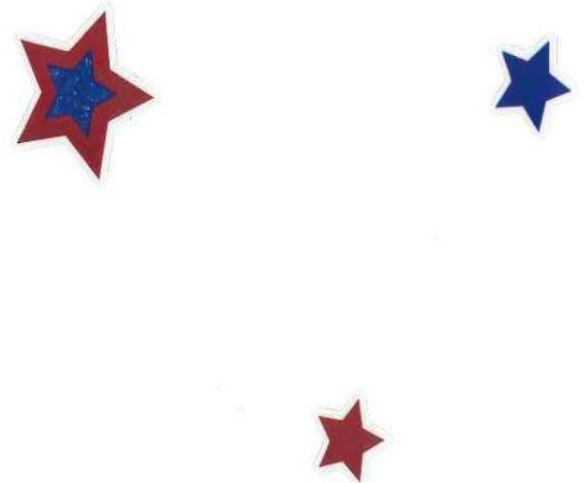
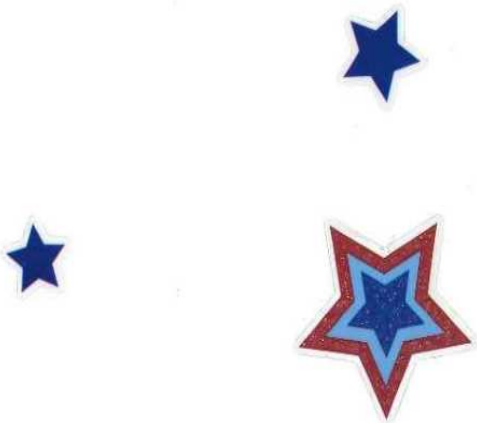
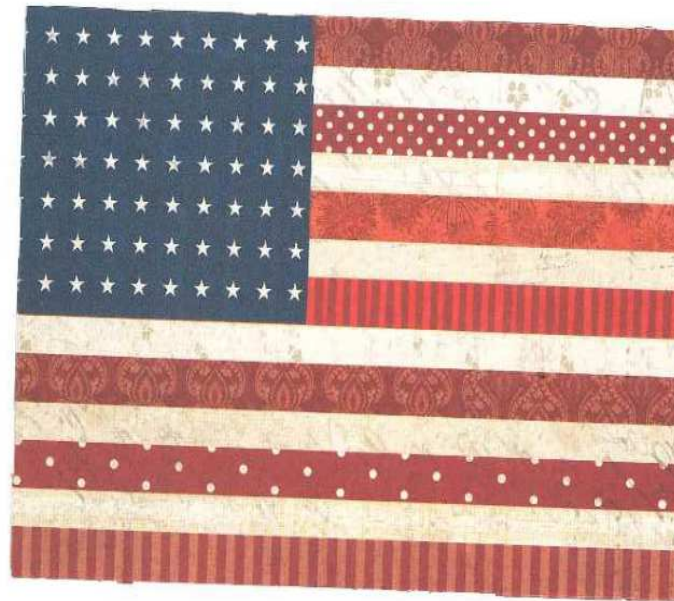
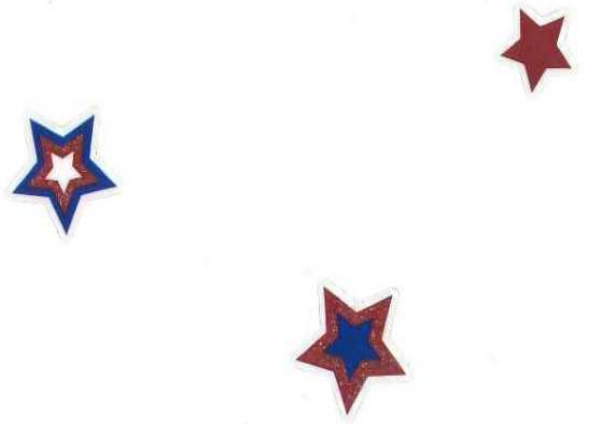






Angleton 2015 veteran Day





*Damon*

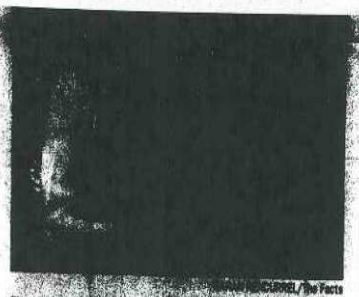
COURAGE



VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11, 2016





By JESSICA KUHN  
jkuhn@the-facts.com

# Group salutes WWII vet during Damon parade

It's no doubt World War II veteran Arnold Svoboda has saluted many times in his lifetime. One of the first came soon after the Damon native raised his right hand and joined the U.S. Army in 1945 toward the end of the war. That salute was the one Svoboda received Friday morning from members of the Brazoria County Cavalry during the county's Veterans Day parade as likely two of the most memorable in his life. "It was outstanding," Svoboda said. "I've never had that happen to me before. That was something — a memory maker." Before kicking off this year's parade that drew hundreds to the streets of Damon, Brazoria County Cavalry leader Tracy

See PHOTOS, Page 3A



the secret of  
**FREEDOM**  
is courage

## Parade

Continued from cover

Read gave Svoboda his first motorcycle ride ever to the Damon ISD ceremony. "His daughter said he told her that no one had ever done anything like that for him," Read said. Read also arranged for the motorcycle group to stop by Svoboda's house that happened to be along the parade route. "I gathered everybody up and said, 'Hey, we are going to stop at this house, he is on the way and everybody needs to get off their motorcycles and walk up, and we'll do a call for a salute and salute this hero,'" Read said. During the war, the 90-year-old veteran served in Germany as a guard, he said. "I was lucky because the war was mostly over," Svoboda said. "I mostly escorted German prisoners." Svoboda's wife Tillie, as well as four of their five daughters, and son, Arnold Svoboda Jr., were there to watch the memory-making moment. "It brought tears to my eyes and was just amazing," the proud son said. "He never bragged about what he had to do, but

"It brought tears to my eyes and was just amazing. He never bragged about what he had to do, but I know it was hard for him."  
— Arnold Svoboda Jr. on his father

I know it was hard for him." One of the Army private's daughters, Annette Elster, said watching the salute was unforgettable. "It was just bone-chilling," she said. "It was really, really amazing." The parade included veterans from about 20 organizations along with performances from area high school marching bands and students, tractors, military vehicles and floats from local groups and businesses pledging their support to former and current service members. "The parade was wonderful," Svoboda said. "It's great they remember the veterans, but the real heroes were those who didn't come back — all those young people who never made it home." Jessica Kuhn is the digital editor for The Facts and can be reached at 979-237-0152.

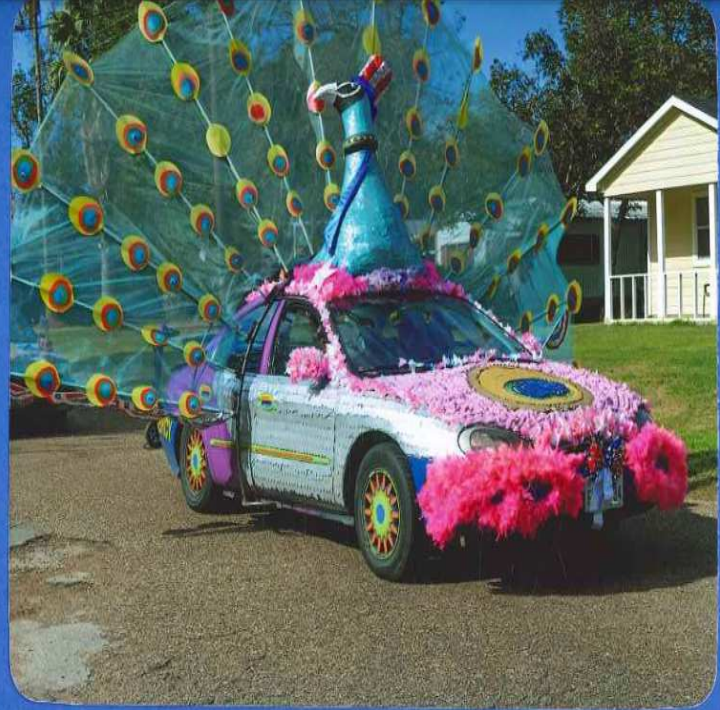
land of the FREE



STRENGTH

NAVY









# Danbury

## VETERANS DAY

THE DUTIES TO WHICH  
HE CALLED US  
SINCE THE DEATHS OF THE PEOPLE  
FOR WHOM HE SAVED THE UNION  
THE MEMORY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
IS ENSHRINED FOREVER

November 11, 2017



*"To care for him who shall have borne the battle..."*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)



★ ★ Broad stripes and bright stars.... gave proof.... ★ ★

★ that our flag was still there. ★

## Veteran

I was a proud veteran  
That served my country well  
To those that would listen  
I had many stories to tell.

We fought for America's freedom  
In far away places on foreign land.  
Wherever the battle for democracy raged,  
America's finest made a stand.

We fought for your future  
And the right to remain free.  
For we saw what freedom meant  
To those not blessed with Liberty.

For you and yours  
We would gladly have given our life.  
We faced the fears and perils of battle  
We braved endless turmoil and strife.

Please remember us veterans  
And the sacrifices we made for you.  
Please share the blessings of freedom,  
Proudly wave the red, white and blue.

Lyrne Carey  
Copyright 2004

★ ★ Broad stripes and bright stars .... ★ ★

★ ★ gave proof .... that our flag was still there. ★ ★





SAM LIEBL/The Facts

U.S. Air Force veteran Tom Przeniesio and U.S. Army veteran Donald Watkins salute during the Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade. Przeniesio and Watkins grew up together in Illinois, both served in the Vietnam War, and now live in Alvin and Danbury, respectively.

# SALUTING OUR HEROES

Parade bonds of service unite veterans

By SAM LIEBL

DANBURY

Veteran veteran Paul Vrazel of Danbury filled the bell Saturday at St. Anthony's Catholic church, and shortly thereafter police sirens blared, announcing the start of the Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade.

Families and veterans lined Danbury's Main Street to watch marching bands, dance teams, first responders and veterans groups make their way through town.

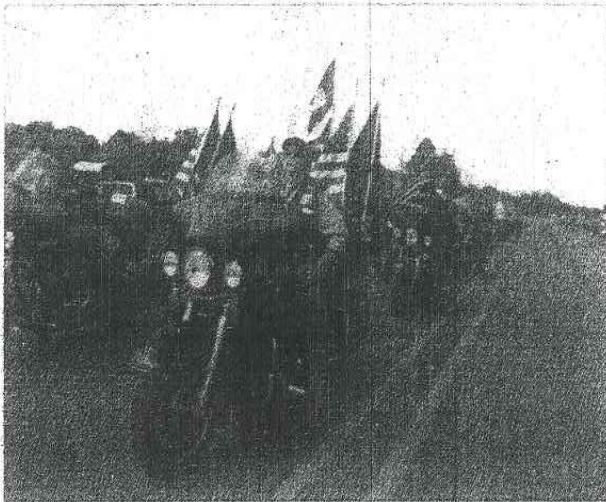
On the corner of Main and Seventh streets, two uniformed Marines saluted as each American flag passed by them in the parade. They were Danbury residents Rick Fess and his son, David Cordovano.

Fess served 23 years in the Marine Corps, including a tour in Vietnam.

Both David and his older brother followed Fess' example and joined the Marines.

"I'm real proud of them," Fess said.

Fess' decision to volunteer to be a Marine resulted, in part, from family joining the Marine Corps before him, and also because Fess was certain he would



SAM LIEBL/The Facts

Members of the Brazoria County Cavalry ride their motorcycles Saturday during the Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade. The parade began at 11 a.m. to commemorate the treaty signed on Armistice Day that ended World War I.

be drafted into the Army during the Vietnam War.

Fess had 15 hours of coursework as a junior college student, which exempted him from the draft, but he dropped one of his classes and soon received a letter from the Army, he said.

"I said, 'You can't draft me. I'm in the Marine Corps,'" Fess said.

The Marine Corps has changed greatly since the Vietnam War, said Cordovano, "but the honor, courage and commitment

never died."

Cordovano said he enjoyed the structure of military life. He operated radios, dispatched aircraft and handled classified information during tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, and now works in Sigat Land at a facility that makes beer cans, he said.

Though the U.S. military has transitioned to an all-volunteer force since the Vietnam War, "with older veterans, there is still a connection," Cordovano said.

"There's just a bond that can't be broken. It doesn't matter if they are not from the same timeframe, they are still a brother to us."

For Vietnam veterans Tom Przeniesio and Donald Watkins, war strengthened a bond that existed prior to their enlistment.

The pair grew up together in Illinois and went on to join different branches of the military during the Vietnam War. Przeniesio went into the Air Force



SAM LIEBL/The Facts

Vietnam War veteran Rick Fess, his wife Bronnie Fess and their son David Cordovano stand along the Brazoria County Veterans Day parade route in Danbury on Saturday. Cordovano followed his father's example and served as a Marine in Iraq and Afghanistan.

## Parade

CONTINUED FROM COVER

and maintained aircraft during his deployment. Watkins joined the Army and flew in Bell UH-1 Iroquois "Huey" helicopters as a crew chief during the war.

Wearing caps that

identified them as veterans, they both agreed veterans receive better treatment now than when they returned home from Vietnam, and 42 years after the conflict ended they still enjoy connecting with fellow servicemen.

"I don't wear the hat to be recognized, I wear

it so that I can come across veterans who I might have served with," Przeniesio said.

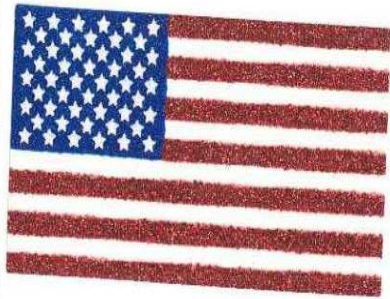
"It's an immediate connection, even if we are just passing on the street."

Sam Liebl is a reporter at The Facts. Contact him at 979-237-0151.





**BROTHERS** *in* **ARMS**



*Soldiers'*  
**Courage**

★ **I SERVE MY COUNTRY** ★

# West Columbia

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



WWI  
100  
YEARS

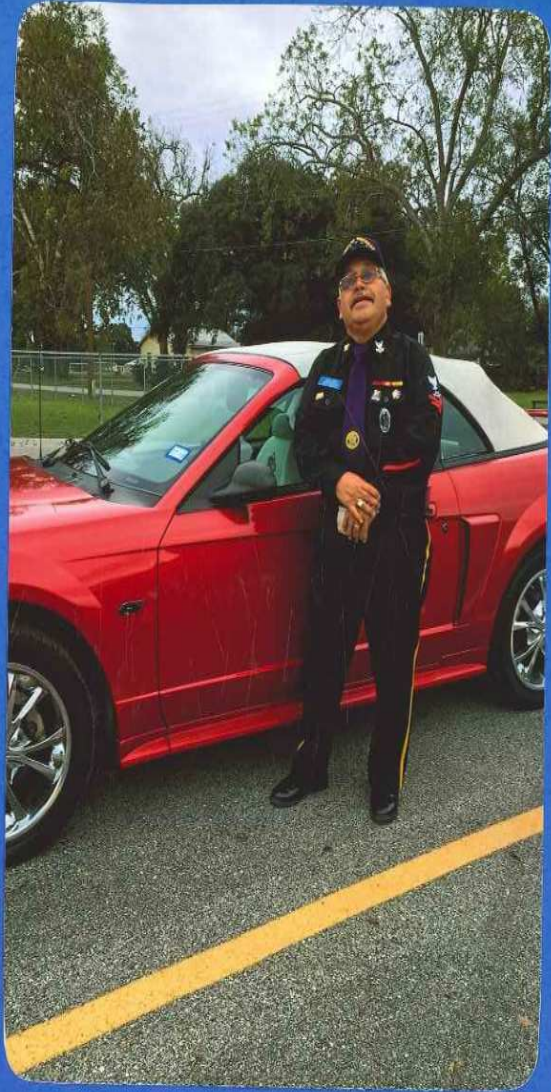
VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11, 2018



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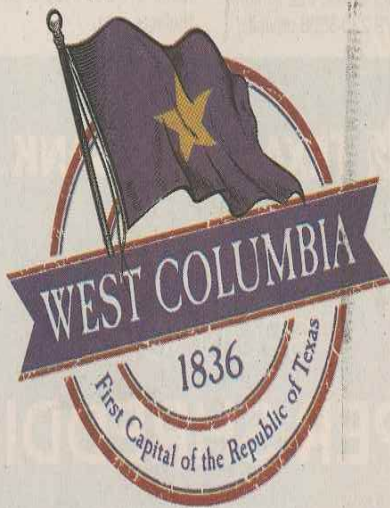
**AMERICAN HERO**



**PROUD  
TO SERVE**

# Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade & Events

Hosted by The City of West Columbia  
Saturday, November 10, 2018



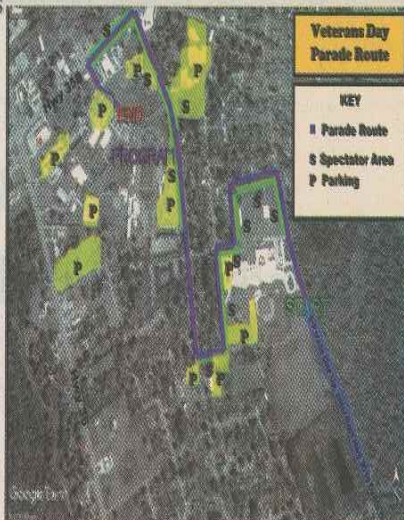
7:00-9:00 a.m.: Veterans Breakfast (spouses included) at West Columbia Elementary Cafeteria. (Veterans should park in the Staff Parking lot on the 14th Street side of the school for easy access)

10:00 a.m.: Parade Line Up (adjoining field beside West Columbia Elementary on 14th Street side of the school)

11:00 a.m.: Parade kicks off traveling north on 14th Street on pre-designated route.  
Grand Marshals:  
Brazoria County WWII Veterans

1:00 p.m.: Ceremony begins at Griggs Field

Parade entries should enter from Highway 36 onto Dance Drive for easy lineup.



## West Columbia Salutes our Veterans!

# Parade returns to West Columbia

Veterans event expected to last more than an hour

By MADDY MCCARTY  
maddison.mccarty@thefacts.com

**WEST COLUMBIA** — Twenty years after hosting the first Brazoria County Veterans Day parade, the event will return to West Columbia for the first time Saturday.

"We're really looking forward to hosting this year," West Columbia City Manager Debbie Sutherland said.

The only other time the city received an invitation to host the parade, they were in the middle of Highway 35 construction, which made it impossible, Sutherland said. Saturday will not only be a chance to honor veterans and attend the program but also stay in West Columbia and see all the shops, restaurants and amenities they have to offer, she said.

Saturday will start with a come-and-go breakfast for veterans and their spouses, prepared by Ladies Auxiliary of Sweeny VFW Post 5237, in West Columbia Elementary School cafeteria. The school is at 711 Gray St., West Columbia, but veterans can park in the staff parking lot on the 14th Street side, according to a news release.

The day is meant to cater to veterans, so the parade will conveniently start right outside the elementary school on 14th Street, Mayor Laurie Kincannon said.

They are expecting a large parade with many entries, she said. World War II veterans will be the parade grand marshals, the release states.

While most parades usually take about 20 minutes to pass, this parade could take up to an hour, Kincannon said. They made sure to set up the route and parking in the best way possible, she said.

The parade will kick off at 11 a.m., turn left onto Gulf Street, and travel 1.3 miles to end at the Columbia High School parking lot. Attendees can park at the elementary school, Columbia High School baseball field, St. John's Catholic Church,

■ See PARADE, 3A

# Parade

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Loggins Street park, Griggs Field, West Columbia Little League and the strip center on 17th Street, the news release states.

At 1 p.m., guests can enter Griggs Field for the program and get a free hot

dog and water from BASF, according to the release. The program will showcase Columbia-Brazoria ISD students, Brazoswood High School AFROTC and Post 241 Sea Cadets.

C-BISD has been great to work with and very generous with their facilities, students, staff and administration, Kincannon said. Together they've planned a

great program for Brazoria County residents, but they should remember what the day is all about, she said.

"I just hope the citizens of Brazoria County will come out and show their respect for the veterans and their service to our nation," Kincannon said.

While people should pay respects to veterans every day, this is a special oppor-

tunity to do so, she said. The city manager agrees with that mission.

"The main focus is to salute our veterans of the area," Sutherland said.

For more information about the events, visit westcolumbiatx.org.

Maddy McCarty is a reporter for The Facts. Contact her at 979-237-0151.



**Courage**

started with a come-and-go breakfast for veterans and their spouses, prepared by the Ladies Auxiliary of Sweeny VFW Post 5237, in the West Columbia Elementary School cafeteria.

The parade started before noon outside the elementary school and over the next hour the waves of veterans made their way to the Columbia High School parking lot.

This event is significant because it allows veterans to have some recognition for the sacrifices they have made for this county, Bethany Figueroa said.

"It lets us show our support and appreciation for them," she said. "I just wish we could do more for them in some way."

Every year the parade moves from town to town and it's vital that cities come together to show appreciation for veterans, Brazoria County Cavalry founder Tracy Read said.

"It's truly to say thank you," he said.

He hopes people who participate in the event understand freedom isn't free and veterans have put their lives on the line, Read said.

There are many different veteran groups and legions in Brazoria County and it's great that residents can come together to support a common cause, Read said.

■ See **PARADE**, Page 3A



BARCLAY FERNANDEZ/  
The Facts

**ABOVE: WWII historical reenactor and Korean War veteran Col. T.C. Jones rides in a Jeep on Saturday during West Columbia's Veterans Day parade. Jones enjoys keeping WWII history alive and teaching others.**

**LEFT: Community members and veterans salute during the playing of the national anthem at West Columbia Veterans Day parade.**



**LAND OF THE FREE  
BECAUSE OF THE  
BRAVE**

## Parade

CONTINUED FROM COVER

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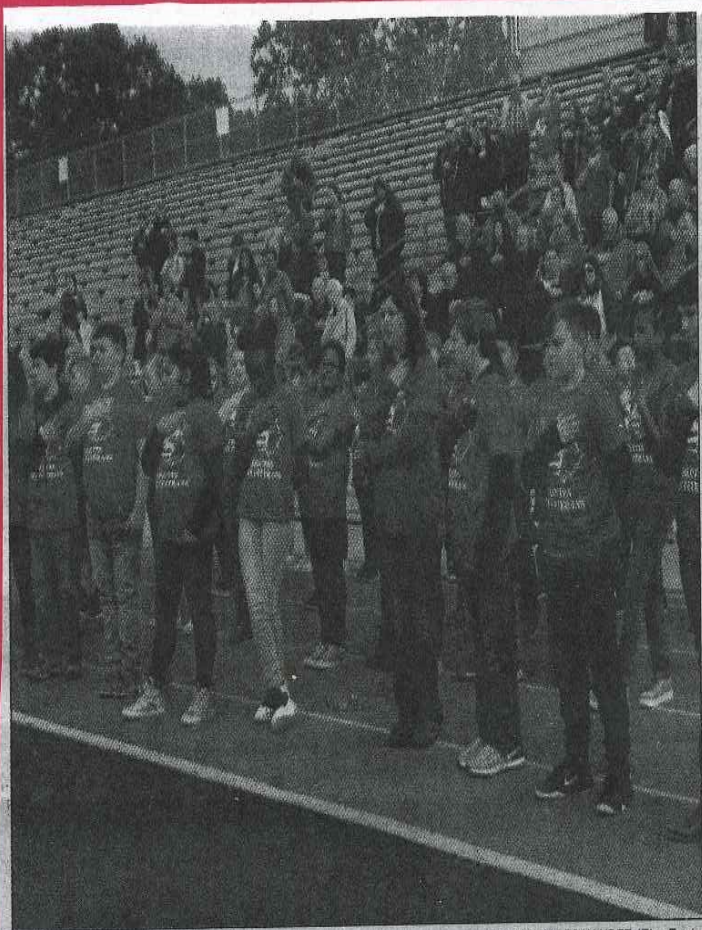
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Maddy McCarty is a reporter for The Facts. Contact her at 979-237-0151.



BARCLAY FERNANDEZ/The Facts

Community members stand for the Star Spangled Banner on Saturday at Griggs Field in West Columbia.



ALEC WOOLSEY/The Facts



BARCLAY FERNANDEZ/The Facts

The Angleton Wildcats marching band plays military music Saturday honoring service members of Brazoria County. LEFT: Brazoswood JROTC march in West Columbia Veterans Day parade Saturday.



BARCLAY FERNANDEZ/The Facts

Military service members and community members stand side by side saluting Old Glory Saturday at Griggs Field during West Columbia Veterans Day parade.



BARCLAY FERNANDEZ/The Facts

Veterans from across Brazoria County talk about their military service with each other Saturday during West Columbia Veterans Day parade.

NAVY

ARMY

# Take this and every opportunity to thank a veteran

For the past few weeks Americans all over the country have exercised their Constitutional right to vote.

Whether the candidates and bond issues they voted for won, passed, lost or failed, the right to vote is a beautiful freedom most Americans have.

When one really stops and thinks about this, the organization that ensures our freedoms are protected from outside influences is the U.S. military.

Whether our nation's warriors fought in Korea or Vietnam, more recently in the Persian Gulf or even those who were never deployed and worked behind the scenes, they should be remembered and respected.

While these heroes technically have a day to be recognized and lauded, Veterans Day should be observed every day.

It takes a mixture of skills, luck and miracles that they are standing before you today. Many of them likely know someone or even had a friend who wasn't as lucky.

Military service carries risks such as serious injury, death and traumas not as visible but certainly damaging.

Sometimes, those who never served take the American way of life for granted. But, for many soldiers, memories of

## OURVIEWPOINT

Our Viewpoint reflects the majority opinion of The Facts editorial board, which includes Yvonne Mintz, Michael Morris, Alec Woolsey and Rene Schwartz.

## VETERANS EVENT

**WHEN:** Breakfast at 7 a.m. Saturday; parade at 11 a.m. Saturday

**WHERE:** West Columbia Elementary School, 711 Gray St.

**PARKING:** Staff parking lot on 14th Street side of the school.

**INFO:** westcolumbiatx.org

war, gunfire and injury cloud everyday life.

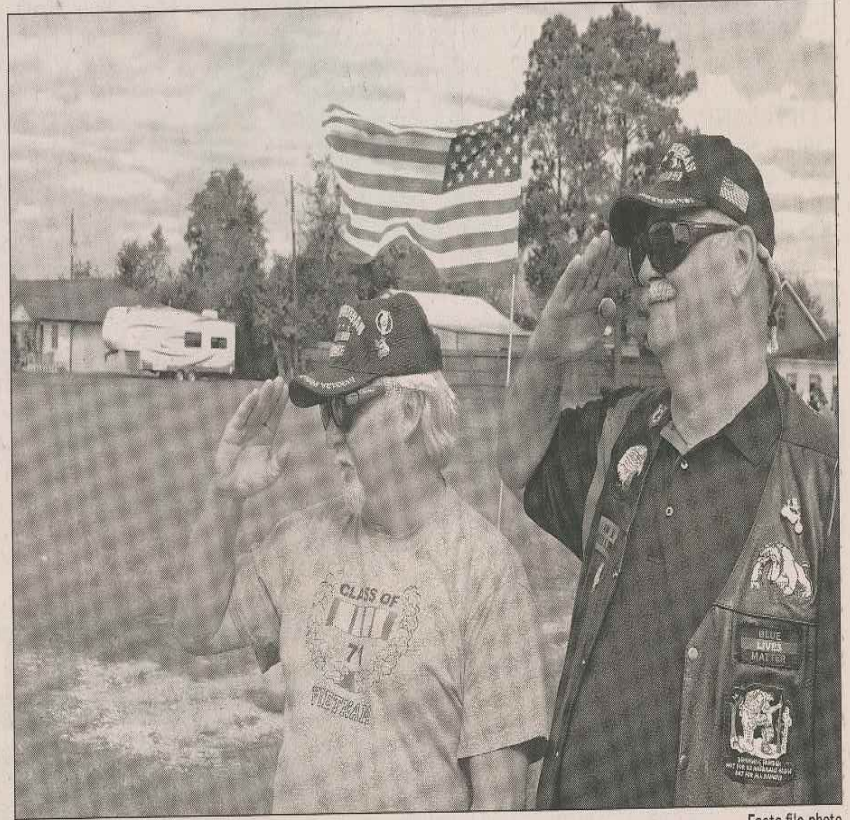
The suicide rate among veterans is 20 a day since 2016, according to Veterans Affairs.

We have huge patriotic displays at football games, which is nice, but people at home are failing where it counts.

This Sunday, think of those you can't see. Remember those who are injured from war and those who never made it home.

And then on Monday and every day after that, shake a veteran's hand. Tell her she is appreciated. Thank him for his service.

For those in the area Saturday, there will be a veterans parade in West Columbia.



Facts file photo

**U.S. Air Force veteran Tom Przenieslo and U.S. Army veteran Donald Watkins salute during the Brazoria County Veterans Day Parade in November 2017. There will be another veterans parade in West Columbia on Saturday.**

The parade kicks off at 11 a.m., turn left onto Gulf Street, and travel 1.3 miles to end at the Columbia High School parking lot. Attendees can park at the elementary school, Columbia High School baseball field, St. John's Catholic

Church, Loggins Street park, Griggs Field, West Columbia Little League and the strip center on 17th Street.

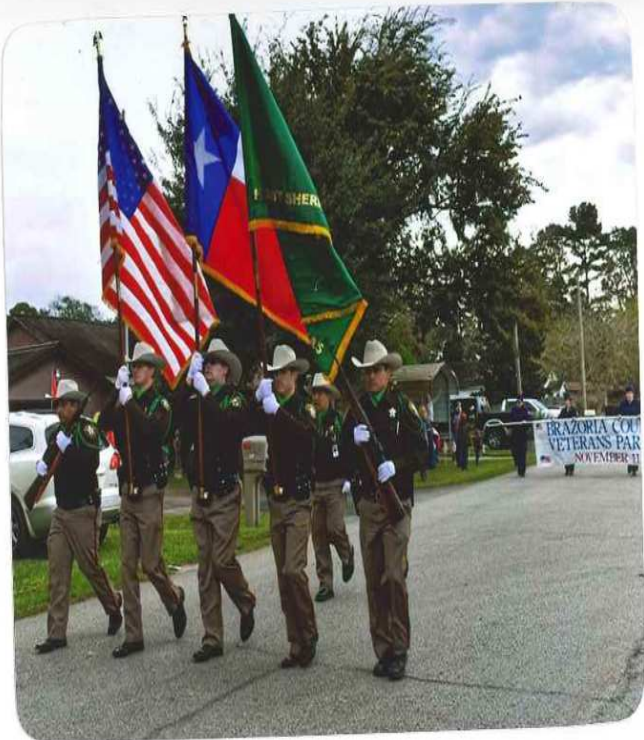
"I just hope the citizens of Brazoria County will come out and show their respect for the veterans and their service to our nation," Mayor Laurie

Kincannon said.

However you show your support, don't make it a once a year type activity. Veterans should be lauded every day.

This editorial was written by Facts News Editor Rene Schwartz. She can be reached at 979-237-0145

Fight for Freedom









★ PROUD TO BE AN *american* ★

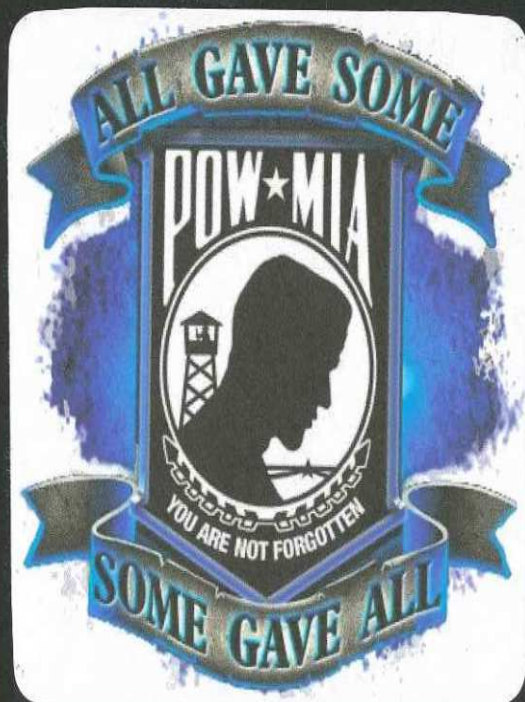
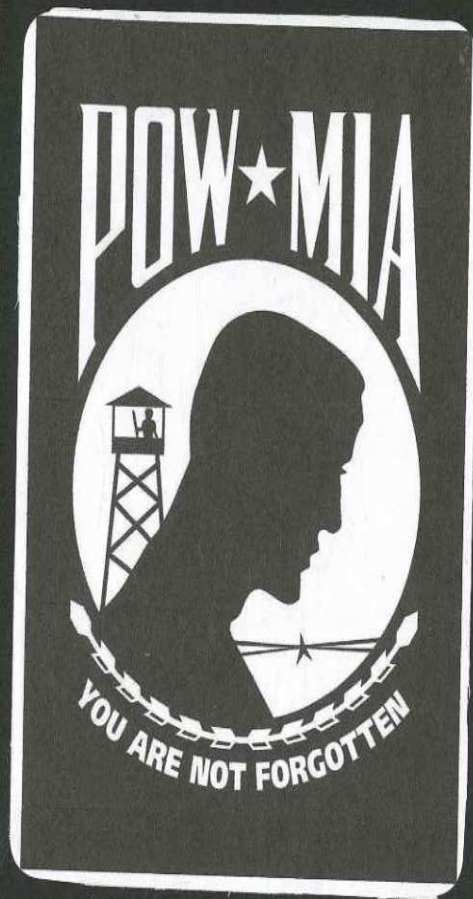
welcome  
**HOME.**

**HONOR**



**RESPECT**









*thank you*

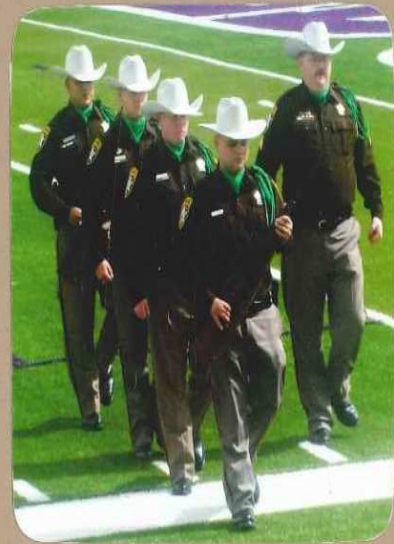


# SHERIFF



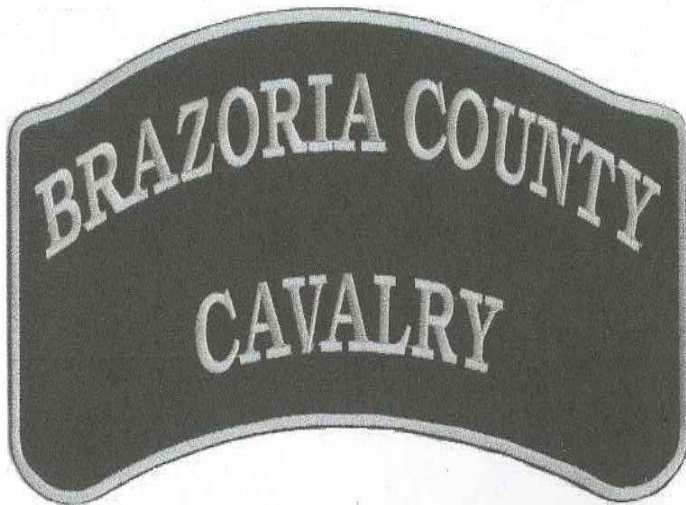
thank  
you











## Veterans Day Parade & Events

Brazoria County Cavalry Members and other Patriots,

Brazoria County Cavalry will be leading the Veterans Day Parade again this year being held in Danbury Texas. We will have Brazoria County Cavalry motorcyclist and other Patriotic motorcyclist that would like to join us in front of the parade followed by BCC vehicles. If you would like to ride on a float during the parade, BCC Members are invited to ride on any of the floats available. There will be shuttles back to the staging area for those that parked there after the program. Please make sure you wear your Brazoria County Cavalry logo proudly.

Once the parade arrives at the Danbury High School, please make sure if you are a Veteran to get a ticket from the Brazoria County Cavalry table that will be setup at the entrance. That ticket will allow all Veterans to have an opportunity to win a Custom Engraved Knife for each branch of Military. If you think you are the Oldest or Youngest Veteran in attendance, you will have the opportunity to sign up and win a knife also. The winners will be chosen and the knives will be presented during the program and YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN. The knives are donated by Brazoria County Cavalry in our appreciation for those who serve.

The staging lineup for the Parade starts at 9:30 am and will be located at the Danbury Softball Complex located on Spur 28 Danbury Texas. The Parade will start at 11:00 am with the Veterans Day Ceremony starting once the parade arrives at the Danbury High School. This will be a great opportunity for Brazoria County Cavalry and other Patriots to show our support for our American Heroes. Please wear your Brazoria County Cavalry logo proudly.

Directions: Coming from Angleton on Hwy 35. Take Hwy 35 toward Danbury. Turn right on Spur 28. Staging will be on your left as you get closer to Danbury.

NOTE: Brazoria County Cavalry members and other Patriots on motorcycles or riding in vehicles.

Date: Saturday November 11th  
Staging Area: Danbury Softball Complex  
Spur 28  
Danbury, Texas  
Staging Time: 9:30 am  
Parade Starts: 11:00 am  
Final Destination: Danbury High School

Breakfast on Veterans Day Nov 11th.  
Veterans and their families are invited to breakfast Nov 11th from 7:30 am to 9:30 am provided by VFW Post 8551 Ladies Aux. located at The Saint Anthony Catholic Church

thank  
you

1523 Main St Danbury Texas.

There will also be a free breakfast for Veterans starting at 7:00 am at The Senior Citizen Center located in West Columbia 629 East Bernard.

There are many events going on starting this weekend leading up to Veterans Day. Here are some of them that we have been notified of.

Veterans Retreat Center & Project Respect Institute. 5th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Nov 4th. All Veterans/Active Duty will receive a free meal with Vet or active ID. Gates open at 11:30 am. Present Colors at 1:00 pm. Retire Colors at 5:00 pm. Dance from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Location 8730 E. Mount Houston, Houston Texas.

James Anderson American Legion Post 561 Brazoria Texas will be having their Veterans Day Fundraiser on Nov 4th from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm at Stewarts Grocery in Brazoria and Sweeny.

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 39 (DAV) Brazoria County will be having their Veterans Day Fundraiser on Nov 10th from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm at Stewarts Grocery in Brazoria and Sweeny.

School Veteran Day Programs.  
Damon Elementary School Nov 10th at 2:00 pm.  
Brazoswood High School Nov 13th at 9:30 am.

NOTE: Brazoria County Cavalry members and others on motorcycles or vehicles.

Date:	Saturday Nov 11th
Staging Area:	Danbury Softball Coplex
Staging Area Address:	Spur 28 Danbury, Texas
Staging Time:	9:30 am
Kick Stands Up:	11:00 am
Final Destination:	Danbury High School

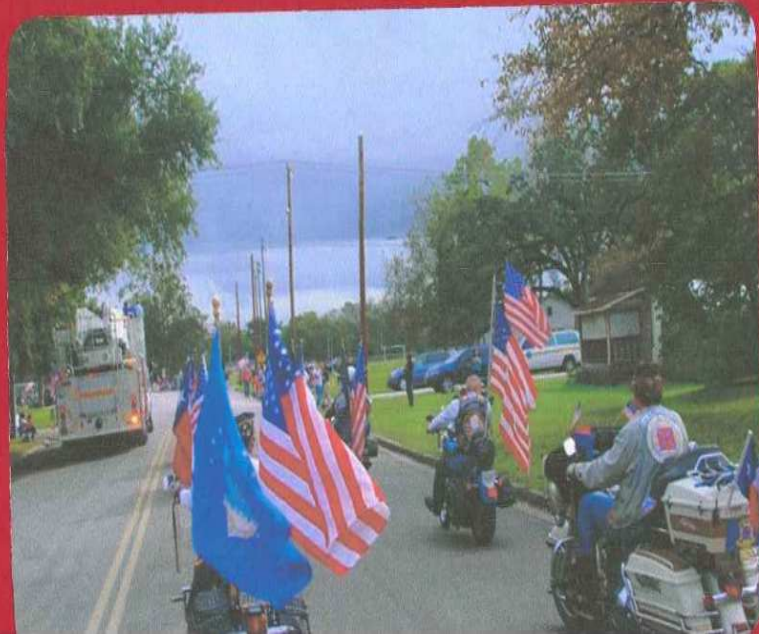
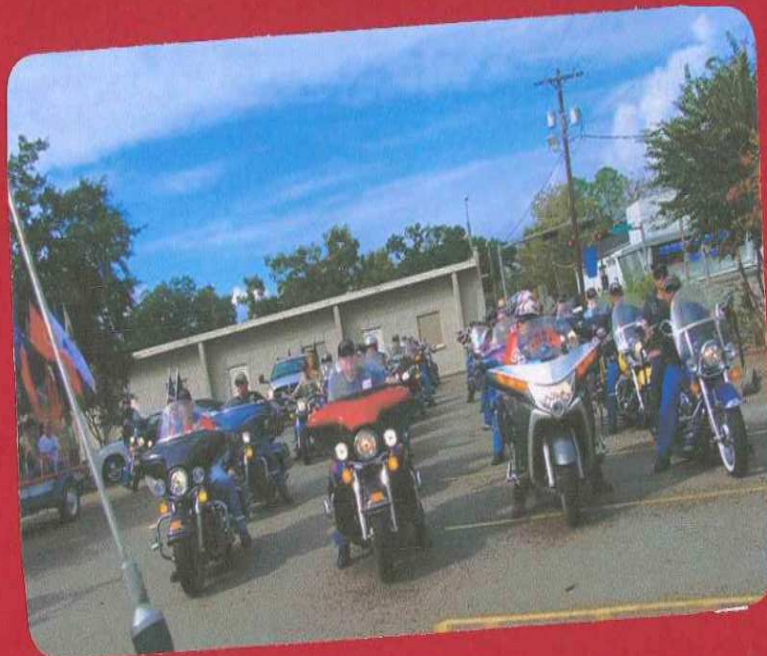
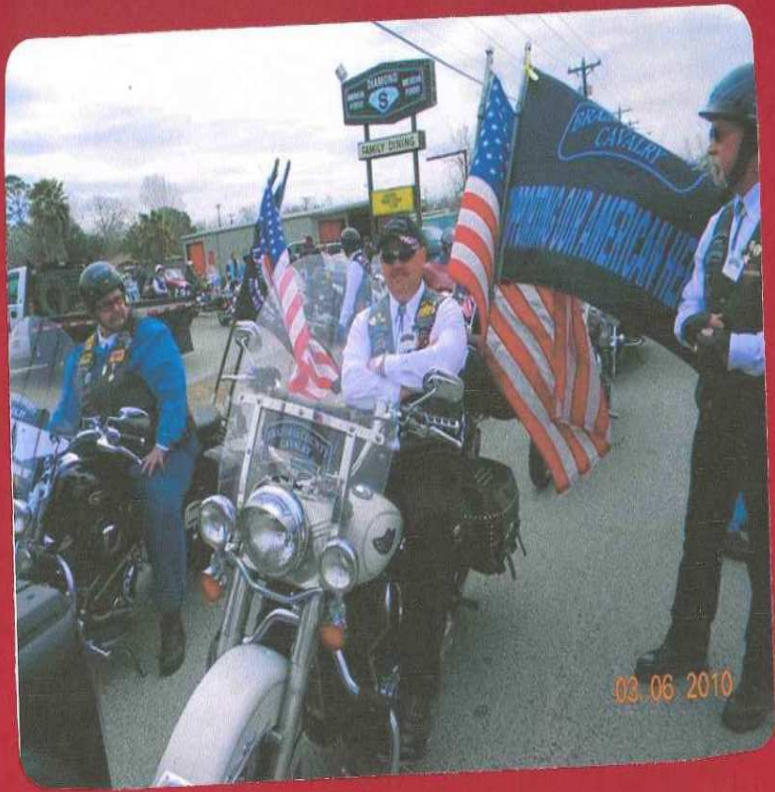
THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT

Brazoria County Cavalry,  
Committee Members  
[www.brazoriacountycavalry.org](http://www.brazoriacountycavalry.org)



02.12.2011









# MOTORCYCLES

BORN TO BE WILD



a state of

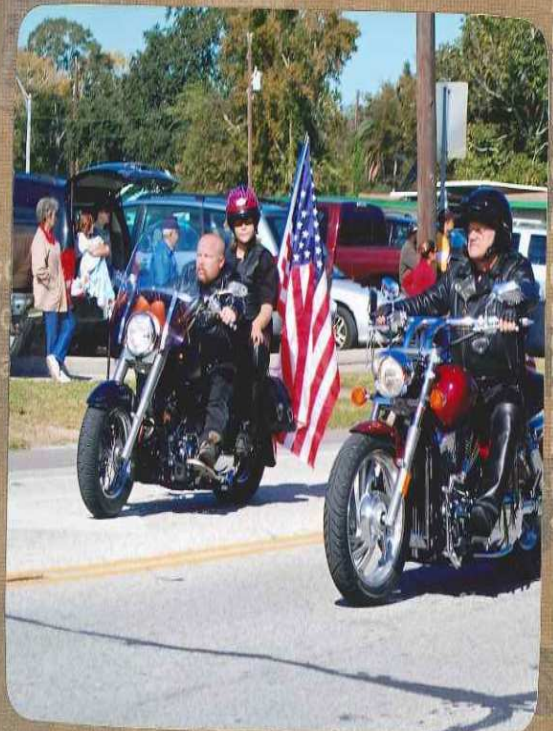


FREE SPIRIT

RIDE HARD  
HEARD  
DESTINATION  
ENERGY

# MOTORCYCLES

MAN'S BEST FRIEND



ROAD HOGS

FREE SPIRIT

BORN TO BE WILD

RIDDER HARPER

IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION IT'S THE JOURNEY



*thank you*



**NATIONAL GUARD**



**EMS**



**Police**





Real Life Hero





thank  
you

it's parade day!

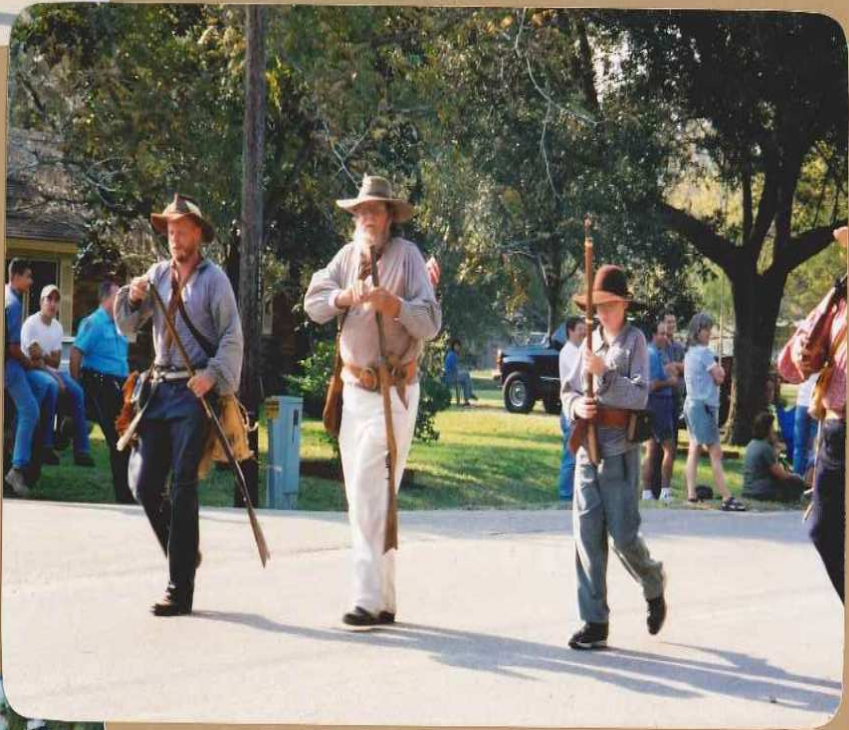


GOOD TIMES



I ♥ THE USA

ALL AMERICAN



celebrate



Lest We Forget

Lest We Forget



The Poppy

© Alden W. Right

Nature created a flower  
With petals of brilliant red.  
Who'd have thought such a beautiful flower  
Would be used to remember the dead?

For when all the guns have stopped firing  
And there's only the mud and the rain  
God sends down his little red flowers  
To cover the lads who remain

So remember every November  
When we hold our remembrance day'  
Of the lads who lie neath the poppies  
And the price they had to pay









Bruno Arias



Albert Esquivel



Ruben Jasso



Joshua Jasso



Ron Douglas



George Martinez



Juan Martinez



Ray Smith



PFC Hicks



GLEN MOODY



Roy Kimmel



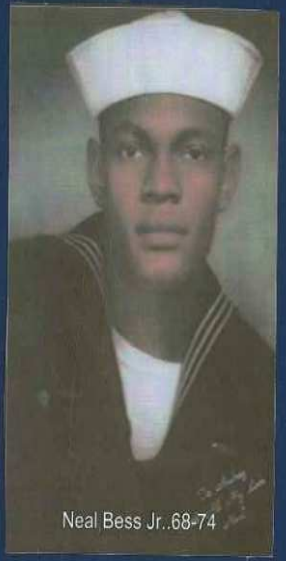
Mario Calderon



Steve Frankin









Jeremy Miller



April Jasso



Rodney D Douglas

SEMPER  
PARATUS



Support  
Our   
Troops

COURAGE



**HERO**

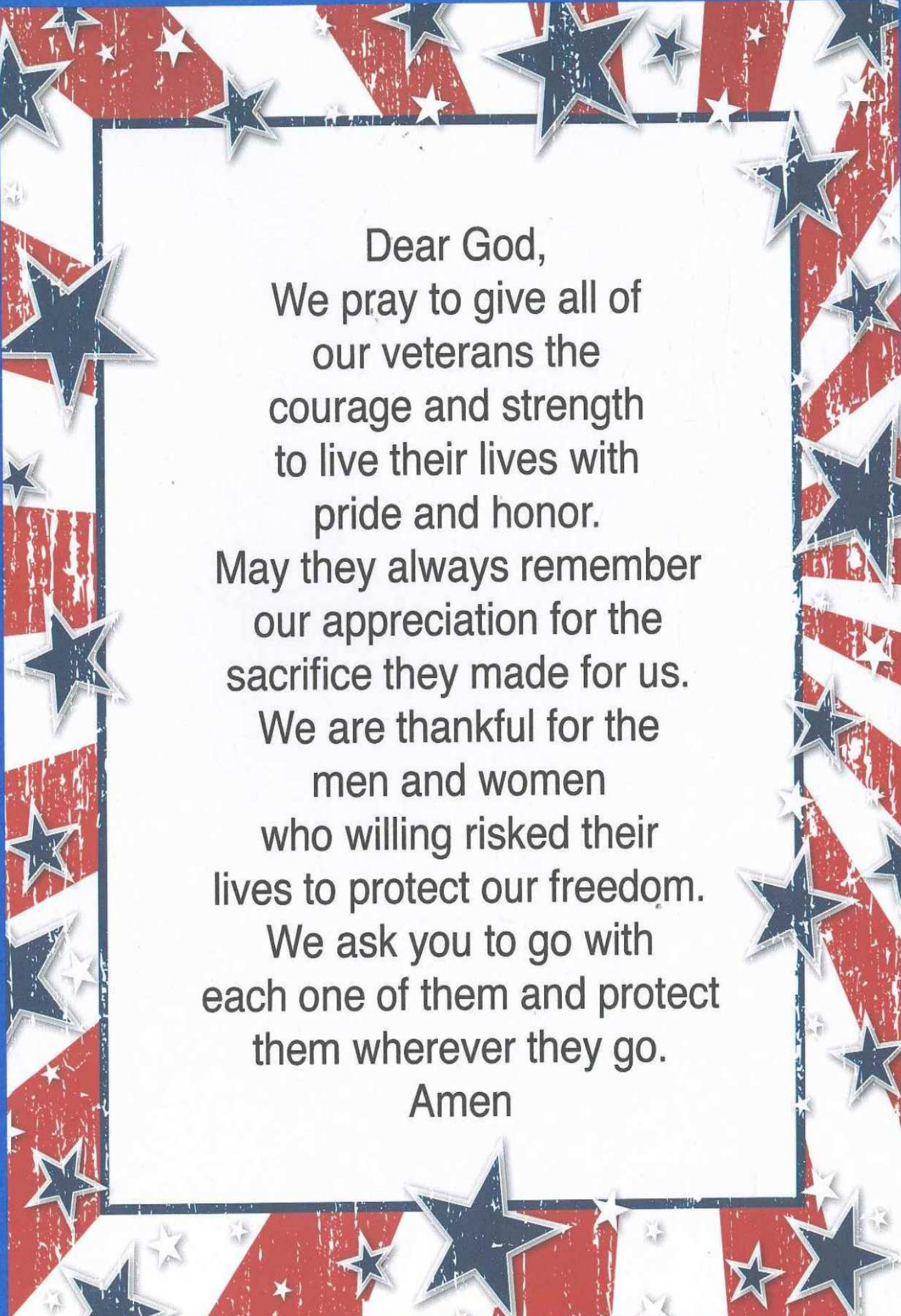


Saving  
Those  
In Peril



HOME  
IS WHERE  
THE  
COAST  
GUARD  
SENDS US





Dear God,  
We pray to give all of  
our veterans the  
courage and strength  
to live their lives with  
pride and honor.  
May they always remember  
our appreciation for the  
sacrifice they made for us.  
We are thankful for the  
men and women  
who willing risked their  
lives to protect our freedom.  
We ask you to go with  
each one of them and protect  
them wherever they go.  
Amen





*thank  
you*

