

WYLIE



Photo by CRAIG KELLY/City of Wylie

Mayor Eric Hogue (from left) presents commemorative Blue Star Banners to Karen Gann, Randy Gann, Roberta Lowery and Brad Lowery, in honor of their sons who are currently serving in the military.

Blue Star Banners presented to families of those who serve

SUBMITTED STORY

Three families whose sons are serving in the armed forces were honored for their sacrifice and presented with Blue Star Banners at the June 9 meeting of Wylie City Council.

Mayor Eric Hogue made the presentation to Denis and Christie McBride, whose son Andrew, a Wylie High School graduate, is serving in the Navy; Randy and Karen Gann, whose son Joshua Prince, a Wylie East High School graduate, is serving in the Marines; and Brad and Roberta Lowery, whose sons Jesse and Brandon are both serving in the Navy. Hogue recognized the sacrifices being made to protect the nation's freedoms.

The tradition of posting the white banner

with blue stars representing those who are serving (or gold stars for those who have died) was started in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queisser of the 5th Ohio Infantry. He had two sons serving on the front line, and his banner became the unofficial symbol for parents with a child in active military service.

Blue Star Banners were widely used in both world wars but were not embraced during the Korean or Vietnam wars; they regained popularity following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Hogue thanked the families for their sons' service.

Information provided by Judy Truesdell on behalf of the City of Wylie.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

SOTX welcomes Flame of Hope to area

SUBMITTED STORY

The first-ever Special Olympics Unified Relay Across America, presented by Bank of America, arrived in Dallas at approximately 11:05 a.m. June 25 and will pass through the city before making its way to Garland, Plano, Arlington and Fort Worth until about 1 p.m. Saturday before moving west toward Abilene.

Local residents and Special Olympics supporters will help carry the Special Olympics Flame of Hope, as the torch makes this historic journey across America, on its way to the 2015 Special Olympics World Games

in Los Angeles. The Unified Relay will increase understanding and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities and create communities of acceptance and inclusion along the way.

The Unified Relay will culminate at the Opening Ceremony of the 2015 Special Olympics World Games in Los Angeles on July 25.

Participants and supporters can also follow the Flame of Hope at unifiedrelay.org as it makes its way across the United States.

Information submitted by Special Olympics Texas.

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