

COMMUNITY LEADER'S MESSAGE

# I stand with heroes in our community

**W**hat is a hero? I've considered this question often in recent weeks. On Sept. 11, the Wylie community gathered to dedicate a bronze sculpture, "Heroes of Wylie," at our Public Safety Complex. We chose the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 9/11 to pay tribute to the first responders who courageously ran into those doomed buildings with little hope of finding a survivor or of being a survivor themselves.

But they weren't the only heroes to whom we paid tribute that day. The statue depicts a firefighter and a policeman, those who have decided, by



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their own accord, to be the protectors and peacekeepers for the citizens in our community.

President Woodrow Wilson once said, "There is no question what the role of honor in America is. The role of honor consists of the names of men who have squared their conduct by ideas of duty." Our firefighters, our police officers

and those who serve in the military wholeheartedly embrace those ideas of duty.

I hope that, as Wylie citizens and visitors view the statue, they will be reminded to honor the people who put their lives at risk on behalf of their families, friends, neighbors, fellow citizens and strangers who come within our city limits.

While in cities around the country we have recently seen those communities and their leaders show a lack of respect and support for their uniformed employees, that is not the case in Wylie. That is not how we do things here; we are family.

As Wylie's highest-ranking elected official, I promised those gathered that day that I will never stand against our first responders or hide behind them. I will always stand right beside them. I will always have their backs, because I know they have mine.

Our uniformed personnel represent an incredible group of men and women; the work they do every day is amazing. The city's low crime rate and our fire department's ISO-1 rating are just two shining examples of the work they do and how fortunate we are to live in Wylie. On behalf of the community, I want to say

thank you for their dedication and commitment to the city.

They are truly the heroes of Wylie.

As I reflect on their commitment, I'm reminded of the words of former President Ronald Reagan. "The future does not belong to the faint-hearted; it belongs to the brave."

Thank you, men and women of Wylie Police Department and Wylie Fire Rescue. You are indeed the brave, and you are the living answer to the question, "What is a hero?"

*Eric Hogue is the mayor of Wylie.*

**ARE YOU A COMMUNITY LEADER?**

Post a **500-word column** about your community, school, organization or church on [neighborsgo.com](http://neighborsgo.com) or email [community@neighborsgo.com](mailto:community@neighborsgo.com), and you could see it published in an upcoming edition. If you have any questions — or suggestions for "Community Leader" candidates — please contact us at [community@neighborsgo.com](mailto:community@neighborsgo.com).



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