

# Support Our Troops Silent Auction—our best yet

Charles Runner

The 2010 Support Our Troops Silent Auction again set a record with a final total over \$23,000. The auction donation drive of over three months resulted in 384 donations from 86 personal and club donors and 64 business donors. The retail value of the donated items and services was \$41,876. They included pewter statues and figures designed by Michael Anthony Ricker; art by wildlife, oil, watercolor and pencil artists, including two living at Robson Ranch; numerous wine and spirit gift baskets from the Any Excuse for a Party group on Kingston Drive; golf, racing, and bowling packages; time shares; and over 90 gift certificates from restaurants, hotels, dental offices, salons, and companies providing a host of services at Robson Ranch. The many donated handmade items included Christmas and note cards from the Sassy Stampers; home entertainment pieces from the Kiln Krafters and Happy Potters; and costumes, Christmas pillows,

crocheted items and quilts from our very talented residents. One very special donation was a signed bookplate from former President George W. Bush for his new book, *Decision Points*.

Over 700 persons visited the auction that began at 10:00  
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## TROOPS

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SOT member Sandy Cash at the auction sale table.

a.m. and ended at 9:00 p.m. The bidding activity was especially brisk before and after the morning and evening concerts by the Robson Ranch Choir. The 50/50 raffle winner received \$1,122, our first winner to exceed the \$1,000 mark. Donors who bid on just one item were entered into an hourly prize drawing. The winners each received pewter Christmas ornaments, music CD's and special woven bracelets that were made by the US military personnel in Afghanistan.

I personally want to thank the scores of Support Our Troops volunteers who worked tirelessly for three consecutive days under the guidance of Auction Co-Chairs

Barbara Runner and Mark Aberbach to make the auction a great success. As this article is being written, the SOT Support and Correspondence teams are busy wrapping gifts and addressing cards that will be sent to all of the men and women of the Armed Forces worldwide that we support. Support Our Troops thanks all of the residents who donated items and services and who generously supported the Auction. Without you we would not be able to fulfill our mission. Please visit our website at [supportourtroopstexas.com](http://supportourtroopstexas.com) to view the list of donors and photos of the auction. We wish you all a Very Happy Holiday and New Year. ☀