

Highlights from Veterans' Day Ceremony at Robson Ranch



The audience at the annual Veteran's Day celebration.

Charles Runner

The day began overcast with a slight mist in the air. By the time Bill and Carol Rauhauser finished with their patriotic "Music in the Park" session, the sun was breaking through the clouds. Park Co-Chairman and Army veteran Charles Runner introduced the Honor Guard made up of Robson residents who had served during World War II. They included Watson Crumbie, US Marine Corps; Harriet Hertwig, US Navy WAVES; Ed Lamport, US Army Chemical Corps; and Ed Meeks and Bob Suttman, both veterans of the US Army Air Force. Navy veteran Jim Galbraith delivered the invocation, and Marine veteran Joe Arnett played Taps.

As the audience sang *God Bless America*, Army veteran Quinn Sowell raised the flag from half-staff. This was followed by a salute from a Revolutionary War model mortar manned by historian Rodney Hess in Revolutionary War military attire. As the mortar smoke cleared, we were treated to a magnificent flyover of World War II vintage bi-plane trainers. Tom Richards of Krum, Texas piloted a Stearman with U.S. Army Air Force markings and Mike Cavanaugh of Lindsay, TX piloted a N3N with US Navy markings.

Mr. Runner informed the audience that 51 named veterans and 4,040 members of the American Division who sacrificed

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their lives in the service of their country in Vietnam are honored on the 18 bricks and three benches have been added to the Veterans' Park. Among the veterans is a sailor who survived the attack at Pearl Harbor aboard a destroyer and who was aboard an aircraft carrier in Tokyo Bay on the day of the Japanese surrender. The cousin of General George S. Patton, Jr. is now honored in our park. They served together in the trenches of France during World War I. Charles noted that one WW I veteran had been decorated for capturing a large number of Germans in the tradition of the famous "Sergeant York" without

firing a shot. He concluded the ceremony by reading a letter from former President George W. Bush addressed to the residents of Robson Ranch. The letter stated in part, "I send greetings to those gathered at Robson Ranch in Denton, Texas to observe Veterans' Day. Laura and I have the greatest respect for the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States and their families. We are proud to join you in honoring these courageous Americans." It was definitely a patriotic and memorable day at Veterans' Park.

Photos are by Bonnie Glod and Quinn Sowell. ☀