

Veterans



Patriot Guard Riders watch the ceremony from the stands on Saturday.

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or a "dove." It is not a requirement that you be a veteran. It doesn't matter where you're from or what your income is. You don't even have to ride.



Wes Jensen

The only prerequisite is respect."

Their main mission is to attend the funeral services of fallen American heroes as invited guests of the family. Each mission has two basic objectives: Show respect for fallen heroes, their families, and their communities and shield the mourning family and friends from interruptions created by any protestor or group of protestors.

They began their mission in earnest when the infamous Westboro, Kan., Baptist Church began attending the funerals of fallen soldiers.

According to the church's Web site, their "message is very simple and rings true in the ears of God's servants -- America is taking a blood bath in Iraq (and elsewhere) because America is busily persecuting WBC for preaching the Word of God to this evil nation God hates America. Her end is near, and approaching fast."

The fringe group searches for funerals and the Patriot Guard Riders intervene - keeping the members of the church away from friends and family.

"These guys are worthy and the service they do is invaluable to our soldiers and their families," said Chamber President Mike Alexander.



Donny Lee

"We were happy with the community participation and thank all of the people who made this event come together," John said.

ETMC was the major sponsor for the event - kicking in \$5,000 for expenses.

"It was a very emotional event," said Chamber Board President Teresa Adams-Wilks. "You can't help -- as you listen to the stories -- really feel for the military, their families and this organization."

Awards were also given to the top three runners: Wes Jensen, Donny Lee and Tammy Rooney.

Team winner was Agroprof.



Tammy Rooney

of Bullard Southern Baptist Church, provided the invocation, and Bullard Band Director Gary Jordan played taps to end the ceremony.

Boy Scout Troop 366 performed the flag ceremony.

Lauren Alexander sang the Star Spangled Banner and John's band Nearly There sang God Bless America.

During Nearly There's performance local resident Darren Davis and his friends gave a flyover in their planes.

"We wanted to show that Bullard supports what the military has done for us," Davis said.

Tom Perryman from The Ranch emceed the event.



Speakers at the ceremony included Jack Rains, former Texas Secretary of State; Justin Lee, of State Rep. Jeb Hensarling's office; U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert; State Rep. Chuck Hopson, State Rep. Leo Berman and State Rep. hopeful Brian Walker.

The Rev. Donnie Barron

BULLARD HOSTS SPECIAL OLYMPICS



By Kelly Griffith-Fields
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Students with mild to severe physical and mental disabilities from Bullard, New Summerfield, Alto, Wells and Rusk met at Panther Stadium Friday to compete in the Special Olympics.

Students competed in races both on foot and in wheelchairs. Volleyball, basketball, bowling and golf games held as well as bubble blowing contests and a sponge toss.

A bounce house and face painting also added entertainment.

At the end of the day all the students were awarded a gold medal.

-- Bullard Banner photos by Kelly Griffith-Fields



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