

3RD ANNUAL "SALUTE TO OUR HEROES" HONORS THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE U.S MILITARY AND RAISES OVER \$55,000 FOR CY-FAIR EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND

On February 12, 2011, the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation (CFEF) held the 3rd annual "Salute to Our Heroes" event at the beautiful Enchanted Cypress Ballroom on Louetta Road in Cypress. The event, which honors the brave men and women who serve, and have served to preserve the freedom and liberties we hold so dear in the United States, was both moving and uplifting...certainly a night to remember for years to come.

In addition to paying tribute to present and past military personnel and those who have been wounded or killed in action, proceeds from "Salute to Our Heroes" are contributed to an endowment allowing the CFEF to provide college scholarships to deserving Cy-Fair ISD students.

Jennifer Pittman, Co-Chair of the event (alongside Co-Chair, Kristie Jackson), feels that the combination of honoring our U.S. Military soldiers, while also allowing young men and women the opportunity to receive a higher education is a great way for the community to come together and make a difference.

Guest speaker at this year's event was Colonel Bruce Crandall, Medal of Honor recipient for his bravery in the Battle of Ia Drang in the Vietnam War. Joe Galloway, Military Correspondent and author of "We Were Soldiers...and Young" was also in attendance, along with many of the heroes that fought with Crandall in Vietnam. The CFEF was also honored to award the 1st Lieutenant Jeremy Ray Community Service and Peace Award to Edward Station, a CFEF Trustee and proud Veteran.

For the third year, the understated, yet powerfully emotional **Missing Man Table** was set out to pay homage to our military's fallen soldiers. The visually poignant reminder of those lost included a table with empty table settings. Chairs were leaned against the table as though saved for someone, and each table setting displayed a single red rose in a vase as a reminder of their bloodshed for our country. A slice of lemon was also placed on the bread plate signifying the bitterness of the loss of comrades in arms, along with a bowl of salt to symbolize the tears shed by family members of those lost. Glasses were turned upside down to indicate that the seat would not be occupied. A ceremony was performed by the 75th Army Division Honor Guard and was preceded by Taps, performed by Cy-Fair High School senior, William Veenstra. The ceremony was followed by the singing of God Bless America, by Shannon Perry.

The CFEF would like to thank all donors and volunteers that helped make this year's "Salute to Our Heroes" such a successful event. As always, we are honored to pay tribute to our wonderful military and humbled by the more than \$55,000 donated to fund the much-needed scholarships for Cy-Fair ISD students.

We would like to specifically thank this year's **Missing Man** underwriter, CTG, Inc., our Major General Sponsor, Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center Hospital, and the Brigadier General Sponsor, Station & Ayers Insurance and Planning Services, L.L.C.

For information on participating in the 2012 "Salute to Our Heroes" or to find out general information on scholarship and endowment opportunities with the CFEF, check out our website at www.thecfef.org, or contact Executive Director, Marie Holmes, at 832-381-2333 or marie@thecfef.org.