



Medal of Honor Recipients Honored! Lana Richards and Ann Pate traveled to Gainesville, Texas, to be a part of this community's large event honoring US Medal of Honor recipients. The pair is shown with the Fort Chadbourne Medal of Honor Display at the Gainesville Medal of Honor banquet. They also enjoyed their visit with Bob O'Malley, a Medal of Honor recipient, and Barbara O'Malley at the Medal Honor Park in Gainesville. The tribute was designed by Barbara O'Malley.

Fort Chadbourne Attends Medal of Honor Tribute

By Ann Pate

This past weekend, Lana Richards and Ann Pate attended the Medal of Honor Host City Program in Gainesville, TX. They were invited to attend and display the Fort Chadbourne Medal of Honor Collection at several of the functions. When first asked they were hesitant, because it meant disassembling a major display, but Ann Pate said "Once we understood the magnitude of what the city of Gainesville does for our recipients, and the number of Medal of Honor recipients that were attending, we knew we couldn't say no to such an honorable request."

Gainesville started the Medal of Honor project over 10 years ago, and it has grown into one of the largest events to honor our nation's heroes. The recipients are treated to four days in the city with banquets, fish fries, parades, including lunches with active military and first responders. They visit schools, have autograph and book signing events, and give back to the city that has shown them the great respect they deserve. Gainesville has planted trees for each new attendee each year, and built a Medal of Honor park with bricks laid by war with each recipient's name. A large black granite memorial with an eagle stands over the park, and has the living recipients names carved in the

stone who have been a part of the Gainesville project. The day Lana and Ann visited the park, Medal of Honor recipient Bob O'Malley and his wife Barbara, who designed the park, were there. He pointed out his name on the granite piece and said with a smile, it was nice to be able to read his name there, because it meant he was still alive.

The men ranged from WWII, 91 year old Hershel "Woody" Williams, to one of our newest recipients, Clint Ramesha, who received his medal from the war with Afghanistan. Others were Korea recipients Hiroshi Miyamura and Duane Dewey, and Vietnam veterans Gary Wetzell, Bennie Adkins, Melvin Morris, Don Ballard, Bob O'Malley, Clarence Sasser, Robert Patterson, Michael Fitzmaurice, Hal Fritz, James Taylor, Kenneth Stumpf and Allen Lynch.

Ann and Lana were honored to be asked, and even more so to

participate in something this upstanding. The entire city of Gainesville, its residents, volunteers, and the directors that put so much work into this project should be very proud for what they have achieved, and be thanked for the patriotism they show our military. It is very humbling to see a community do what this city has done.

If you haven't visited the Fort Chadbourne museum and seen their Medal of Honor display, please do so. It too has a wall listing all 3,491 recipients by war, along with a short video that explains much of the history of the Medal. It honors six Medal of Honor recipients that were stationed at Fort Chadbourne in the 1850's, along with a sword belonging to Peter Boehm who had the sword with him at Fort Chadbourne when he was stationed there in 1867. There is also a Henry rifle that belonged to Medal of Honor recipient Alonso P. Weber, but the most amazing of



the collection is the Medals themselves. They consist of medals from the 1800's to the ones they issue today. One very special medal is the Navy Tiffany Cross, the rarest of the medals because they ceased to issue that in the 1940's. An original medal from the Purge of 1917 belonging to James Gould is also on display.

Although, Fort Chadbourne would like to honor other request to display these medals at events, it would be impossible to do so. This was a rare event, and one Fort Chadbourne is proud to say they were able to contribute to in honoring our nations Medal of Honor recipients and all our Veterans. God Bless them all.

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