

Flag Retirement Ceremony with a community, state, national and international flavor.

On Veterans Day evening 2009, members and friends of American Legion Post 516 came together for their semi-annual ceremony. Prior ceremonies enjoyed partnering with ROTC, other veteran organizations, retired and active veterans. This year's ceremony chairman David Fenn arranged a unique experience.

The participants included Girl Scout Troop 3420 as the flag detail; First Vice Sir Anthony Bass, former Australian Army Major attached to US forces; Second Vice Mike Williams, current member of the 36th division Texas National Guard topped off with "Renegade Nation" Native American Veterans Color Guard, all in traditional military uniforms. Positions filled by post members included Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Hux and fire box tender Ron McDonell, both are Purple Heart recipients; Chaplain Cheryl Estes, President of Auxiliary Unit 516; fire tender Randy Lyman, SAL Commander and Riders Director with David Fenn conducting from the ceremony Commander position.

The ceremony started with the traditional "Assembly" bugle call, openings by the Commander, First and Second vice Commanders followed by a prayer. Sir Bass then recited a traditional Australian Prayer for fallen soldiers. The "Kiowa Veterans Song" played as Renegade Nation performed the "Fallen Worrier" ceremony assembling the Battlefield Cross with Warrior Shield. They then presented the Colors by circling the assembly followed by the "Star Spangled Banner". The First and Second vice Commanders inspected the Colors to be retired, a bugle rendition of "To the Colors" was played and the Sergeant-at-Arms directed the formation to the Urn as "You're a Grand Old Flag" was playing. The flags were individually saluted and retired as the Native American rendition of "Taps" was being played.



Sir Bass, Mike Williams and Mike Hux in front of Girl Scout flag detail as Renegade Nation color guard approach.

Respect was shown to over 50 flags from local individuals and businesses. At the conclusion, all participants were given a round of applause and welcomed back anytime. This was truly impressive ceremony that followed a great parade in Fort Worth, it was a very good day. Pictures of this event (and the parade) are posted at www.post516.org (click on the scrapbook link).

Submitted by Ken Cox