

Honoring our Warriors on Memorial Day 2010



From the left: James Estes, Jack Cox, Cheryl Estes and Clarence Howard



After a day of work for some and many memorable cemetery events for others, over 100 members and guests gathered outside Greater Fort Worth American Legion Post 516 for the annual Memorial Day flag retirement. Flags that honored our country and have come to the end of their lifetime are respectfully cremated in honor of all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to keep them flying and our country free.

The ceremony opened with a team of Native American Combat Veterans assembling the Fallen Warrior Battlefield Cross and draping of the POW/MIA flag over a chair in honor of those lost and those yet to be recovered. This was followed by the playing of TAPS by James Snow on a traditional Indian flute.



Left to right: a girl scout with Billy Pribble placing a flag on the freedom flame.

Color Guard:

John Taylor (hidden) [POW/MIA Flag], James Snow [Cherokee Nation Flag], Arnold Pena [All Services Flag], John Cummings [Oklahoma Flag], Daniel Alvarez [Texas Flag] and Leland Kuhn with the American Flag.

As the crowd dried their eyes Committee Chairman David Fenn introduced guests and emphasized the significance of the day and event. The services continued under the command of Legion Rider Director Jack Cox, Auxiliary President Cheryl Estes, Sons of the American Legion Commander James Estes, Chaplain Clarence Howard, Sergeant at Arms Bill Pribble and Bill Putman tending the freedom flame.

Renegade Nation Color Guard presented the colors followed by a

large detail of Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and family members carrying unserviceable flags. Kazy Shae beautifully sang the National Anthem and following the appropriate inspections and prayer over 50 flags were rendered to the flame as the sun set on the horizon. The crowd then came alive as Brittany Pigrenet sang the always inspiring "Proud To Be An American" by Lee Greenwood.

See the pictures at www.post516.org click on the scrapbook link for these and more event pictures. Submitted by Ken Cox.