

“Cost of Freedom” American Veterans Traveling Tribute Vietnam Wall Replica
Daily report for 31 Mar 2011
Dutch Branch Park, 1899 Winscott Rd. Benbrook, Texas 76126

Shortly after noon the “Wall” had been erected and displays were being finished. Booths include the reception, VFW, American Legion and flag displays from the Patriot Guard.



At 1:30 PM Mayor
Jerry Dittrich
opened the
ceremony with the posting of Colors and playing

of the National Anthem. The American and Texas Flags were posted by American Legion Post 297 Commander Larry Sutton and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10429 Commander Peter Kau. Both posts are located in Benbrook.



Gold Star Mother Dorothy Schafernocker spoke of the difficulties faced by those returning from combat and presented poetry from one of those listed on the wall, her son Michael. She then accompanied Tuskegee Airman Claude R Platte in laying a “Gold Star” Wreath. They were followed by TSgt (now MSgt) Patricia Stover from the 301st Fighter Wing and former POW John Yuill LTC (ret) placing the POW/ MIA Wreath and Patrol Officer Rafe Lawrence and Capt. Jackie Hartmen of the Benbrook Police and Fire Departments placing the 911 Wreath. The ceremony concluded with a salute, a prayer and Taps.

The display will be open 24 hours a day from now to 2:00 Sunday, April 3. Visitors were arriving all afternoon. Pictures of the wall are at www.AVTT.org.