



300 Country Club Road, Wylie, Texas 75098
www.wylietexas.gov

City of Wylie
Public Information Office

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Craig Kelly, PIO
972-516-6016
craig.kelly@wylietexas.gov

Judy Truesdell
972-516-6017
judy.truesdell@wylietexas.gov

Wylie Launching New Blue Star Banner Program
Military families invited to apply for honorary banner

Wylie, TX, May 7, 2014 – City of Wylie employees and the Hale-Combest American Legion Post 315, Wylie, Texas, announce a new Blue Star Banner Program for Wylie residents with family members serving in the Armed Forces. The program honors the American tradition of displaying a Blue Star Banner in a home's window when a loved one is serving.

Any family within Wylie city limits or with children attending Wylie ISD schools is eligible to receive a commemorative banner, to be presented either at the fifth annual Salute to Heroes Memorial Day celebration at the Veterans Memorial in Olde City Park, or during a Wylie City Council meeting.

The Blue Star Banner was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queisser of the 5th Ohio Infantry. His two sons served on the front line. His banner quickly became the unofficial symbol for parents with a child in active military service. During World War II, the Department of War issued specifications regarding the flag's manufacture along with guidelines about when the flag could be flown and by whom. Blue Star Banners were widely used during both world wars but were not embraced during the Korean or Vietnam wars with the same enthusiasm. Following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001, the American Legion worked to rekindle the public's spirit of pride in military men and women by providing banners to families across the nation.

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Blue Star Families program

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The banner is a 8.5-by-14-inch white field with one or more blue stars sewn onto a red banner. The blue star represents one family member serving; a banner may have up to five stars. If an individual is killed or dies, a smaller golden star is placed over his or her star.

City employees and American Legion members urge all families whose loved ones are protecting Americans' way of life to apply for a Blue Star Banner. As an Ohio congressman read into the Congressional Record on Sept. 24, 1917, "The world should know of those who give so much for liberty ... the dearest thing in all the world to a father and mother: their children."

For an application, contact Lynn Fagerstrom at lynn.fagerstrom@wylietexas.gov or 972-516-6048.

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About Wylie – Incorporated in 1887, the city of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 44,158) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the State of Texas with a 192-percent increase since 2000.