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SUBMITTED STORY

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Blue Star Banners Presented at Council Meeting
Families With Sons Who Serve Honored

Wylie, TX, June 11, 2015 – Three families whose sons are serving in the armed forces were honored for their sacrifice and presented with Blue Star Banners at the June 9 meeting of Wylie City Council.

Mayor Eric Hogue made the presentation to Denis and Christie McBride, whose son Andrew, a Wylie High School graduate, is serving in the Navy; Randy and Karen Gann, whose son Joshua Prince, a Wylie East High School graduate, is serving in the Marines; and Brad and Roberta Lowery, whose sons Jesse and Brandon are both serving in the Navy. Hogue recognized the sacrifices being made to protect the nation's freedoms.

The tradition of posting the white banner with blue stars representing those who are serving (or gold stars for those who have died) was started in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queisser of the 5th Ohio Infantry. He had two sons serving on the front line, and his banner became the unofficial symbol for parents with a child in active military service. Blue Star Banners were widely used in both world wars but were not embraced during the Korean or Vietnam wars; they regained popularity following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001.

Hogue thanked the families for their sons' service. "These kids are special to us," he added. "They're part of our family as well."

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Photo by Craig Kelly

From left, Mayor Eric Hogue presents commemorative Blue Star Banners to Karen Gann, Randy Gann, Roberta Lowery and Brad Lowery, in honor of their sons who are currently serving in the military.

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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 44,938) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the state of Texas with a 197-percent increase since 2000.