



## conroe courier - news

### Honor Flight Eagle dedicated at Memory Park

By Brad Meyer

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MONTGOMERY – A new eagle honoring World War II veterans took flight Thursday morning with the unveiling of a statue in Montgomery's Memory Park.

More than 100 attendees, including veterans, civic leaders and schoolchildren, were on hand for the dedication of the Honor Flight Eagle that will be the focal point of the new Veterans Plaza at Memory Park, located adjacent to the Charles B. Stewart Library.

"This is a fantastic event that shows how the community has come together to honor our veterans," said Brenda Beaven, founder of Lone Star Honor Flight. "I'm very proud of the spirit and enthusiasm the city and the county have demonstrated."

The 13-foot-tall statue, provided by LSHF director Jack McClanahan, features an eagle atop a pedestal with plaques engraved with the names of the more than 500 World War II veterans who participated in the five LSHF trips to Washington, D.C.

With the support of the local community, LSHF transported veterans to Washington, D.C., without expense to tour military memorials and monuments built to honor the service of military veterans – especially the World War II Memorial.

"I just wish we had room for the names of the thousands of local residents who donated and supported this effort," McClanahan said. "This was a worthwhile project to honor our World War II veterans."

The event featured remarks from Montgomery County Judge Alan B. Sadler, Montgomery Mayor Travis Mabry, Rotary Club of Lake Conroe President Mike Berger, Beaven and McClanahan. A medley of patriotic songs was provided by the Montgomery Elementary School choir. Freedom Flight provided two airplane flyovers, including a missing man formation.

McClanahan said Veterans Plaza will provide an area to honor veterans from every branch of service, as well as police and firefighters who die in the service of their country and community, when it is complete.

Beaven credits community support of LSHF and other patriotic events like the dedication Thursday with inspiring young people in the Montgomery area to volunteer to serve their country. Montgomery High School Principal Phil Eason agreed.

"We had more than 160 students sign up for ROTC in our first year," he said. "The state gives us two years to get to 100 participants, and we surpassed that right from the start."



Kris McBride, with the Rotary Club of Lake Conroe, unveils the Honor Flight Eagle monument during dedication ceremonies Thursday morning at Montgomery's Memory Park.

Following the dedication ceremony, attendees were encouraged to tour Memory Park, a project sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lake Conroe with support from the community. Approximately 500 American flags were positioned around the pond in the center of the park.

"This is a wonderful addition to the city of Montgomery," Mayor Travis Mabry said. "We are proud of our place in history – and all that is being done for those who made history."

On Saturday, a video presentation from LSHF 4 and 5 will be presented from 1-4 p.m. at the Ark Church, located at 450 Humble Tank Road in Conroe. Special guest Jim McIngvale, of Gallery Furniture, is the featured speaker. The event is free to the public.

Later that day, a Celebrate America Festival be from 4-7 p.m. at Conroe Bible Church, located at 4491 I-45 in Conroe. The event features live music, children's activities and food. Admission is free.

On Sunday, Stage Right presents a special production of "No Time For Sergeants" at 2 p.m. at the Crighton Theatre, located at 234 N. Main St. in Conroe. Admission to the event is free for veterans; however, advance reservations are highly recommended. Companions can attend at normal ticket prices. For more information, call (936) 441-SHOW.

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