

Texas Historical Commission Marker Dedication

Camp Billy Machen Memorial Park

Honoring

Billy Wayne Machen



RD2 Machen was the first US Navy SEAL killed in the Vietnam. He died of wounds received in an ambush when he exposed himself to enemy fire to protect his teammates.

Thursday, October 17, 2024

1707 Machen Lane
Gilmer, Texas 75644

- 1:30 pm Guest parking gates open for free parking. Handicap parking provided, just advise the **AFJROTC Cadet/Ushers. BRING LAWN CHAIRS**
- 2:45 pm Arrival, **East Texas Patriot Guard Riders**
- Arrival, **fly-in of Vietnam War Ear helicopters . . . a Bell UH-1Huey and Bell AH-1 Cobra Gunship and Hughes Cayuse** from Mid America Aviation Museum Mt Pleasant, TX, President/CEO Scott Glover and Pilot Andrew Kiest.
- 3:00 pm Welcome, Steve Dean, Capt. USAF Retired
Invocation, Mike Kessler, Pastor, First Baptist Church
National Anthem, Gilmer High School Buckeye Band
AFJROTC Color Guard post the colors
- Upshur County Judge Todd Tefteller, Proclamation and Resolution
State Representative Cole Hefner, Texas House of Representatives
State Senator Bryan Hughes, Greetings from Governor Greg Abbott and Resolution from Texas Senate
US Congressman Nathaniel Moran, Resolution from the US Congress
Senator John Cornyn, Resolution from US Senate and Greetings from the White House
- Armed Forces Medley, Gilmer High School Band
- Keynote Speaker: Alan Metzler, coach of the Texas State Champion Gilmer Buckeyes

Unveiling of the historical marker.

US Navy Honor Guard post the SEAL flag provided by National Navy SEAL Foundation Ft. Pierce, FL

US NAVY HONOR GUARD

Anchors Aweigh Gilmer High School Band

4:00 pm **AIRSHOW * AERIAL VETERANS SALUTE * MISSING MAN FORMATION**

4:15 PM Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum Escadrille Missing Man Tribute: WWII US Navy Enms Billy Stevenson and Vietnam US Navy Ens John Mack Dean

4:30 pm 8th Air Force B-52 BUFF, Global Strike Command, Barksdale AFB (invited) honoring all Patriots.

Music: Happy Trails to You, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans recorded

If you have any questions please contact Steve Dean, President/CEO of the Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum at 903-790-7435.



Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum and the Upshur County Historical Commission are sponsors for the Memorial, while community and family members, patriots and supportive donors are generously providing funding for the memorial park.