

NOTAM 5. 9/25 UPDATE *Machen Texas Historical Commission Historical Marker
Dedication by Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum*

**DEDICATION CEREMONY 17 OCT 2024
1707 Machen Lane Gilmer, TX**



The Camp Billy Machen Memorial Park honors 1957 Gilmer High School graduate US Navy Petty Officer Billy Machen, a distinguished Vietnam Veteran. **Billy was the first Navy SEAL killed in action in the Vietnam War.**

Billy Machen was among the 58,220 US servicemen and women casualties of the Vietnam war; and Billy was the FIRST US Navy SEAL killed in combat action. The war casualty list does not credit the additional hundreds of service members lost in the line of duty, like our brother Ensign John Mack Dean, who was killed in the line of duty while training in preparation for deployment.

Machen holds such unprecedented notoriety in the SEAL community that a US Navy SEAL Training Base in California was named in his honor...Camp Billy Machen Desert Warfare Training

CAMP BILLY MACHEN NAVY SEAL TRAINING FACILITY, CALIFORNIA



Photo: CLUI

Camp Billy Machen is a Navy SEAL desert warfare training facility, located on the edge of the Chocolate Mountains, next to Slab City, itself a former military base.

The Texas Historical Commission has declared the park an Historical site and authorized placement of a Texas Historical Commission Historical Marker at the site of the park.

TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION PROGRAM THURSDAY OCT 17

1:30 PM. Guest parking gates open.....free admission....free parking.... The public is invited....1707 Machen Lane Gilmer TX 75644

Handicap parking provided, just advise the **AFJROTC Cadets Parking Directors**
BRING LAWN CHAIRS plan to arrive early

2:00 PM CROWD AND PARTICIPANTS BEGIN TO GATHER (plan to stand or better yet bring your lawn chairs - **HANDICAP** seating will be available, advise the AFJROTC Cadet/ Ushers

2:30 PM activities begin At the MEMORIAL park with
Arrival of motorcade East Texas **Patriot Guard Riders and Historic Military Vehicles and Helos**

See Addendum One; for Patriot Guard, Military Vehicles, Combat Veterans, aircrews and Airshow participants.



Texas Veterans Military Show

<https://www.kltv.com/2024/09/15/texas-veterans-military-show-back-9th-year-bullard/>



▶ "What a Wonderful World" from "Good Morning Vietnam" - God bless Robin Williams

2:30 Motorcade Arrival HMVA and PATRIOT GUARD MOTORCADE and Landing of VIETNAM ERA HELICOPTERS.... Bell UH-1 Huey and Bell AH-1 Cobra Gunship and Hughes Cayuse from Mid America Aviation Museum Mt Pleasant TX Pres/CEO Scott Glover and Pilot Andrew Kiest.



Combat Veterans arriving on board the Vietnam era helicopters:

1. Billy Ray Dean, USArmy Dustoff combat medic, South Vietnam, Bronze Star

Billy's Dad was a US Navy SeaBee on the invasion of Iwo Jima WW II

2. Bill Lawrence, Col, USMC Ret Vietnam Tet Offensive, Navy Test Pilot School, first Marine Corps assault on D-Day of the Gulf War, LOM, DFC, Purple Heart

3. Larry Tefteller, Lt Col USArmy Ranger, Vietnam

4. Roger Neiman, Lt Col, USAF Ret, B-52 Arc Light Missions North and South Vietnam, DFC, Air Medals

5. Bill Gunn, Lt Col USAF RF-4's North and South Vietnam DFC, Air Medals

Bill's father was the highest ranking POW, captured after being shot down over Ploesti, Romania in 1944

6. Jeff Griebeling, USArmy Door Gunner, Black Hawk, Iraq and Afghanistan

7. Mickey Wallace, Commander, U.S. Navy, retired, Carrier Strike Fighter Pilot, DFC, Air Medal.

3:00 PM


Steve Dean, Capt USAF Ret, Welcome

Mike Kessler, Pastor First Baptist Church, Invocation

*******National Anthem Gilmer HS Buckeye Band**



8th Air Force B-52 BUFF, Global Strike Command, 93rd Bomb Squadron Barksdale AFB, LA

 **Texas Motor Speedway Video June 8 2014**

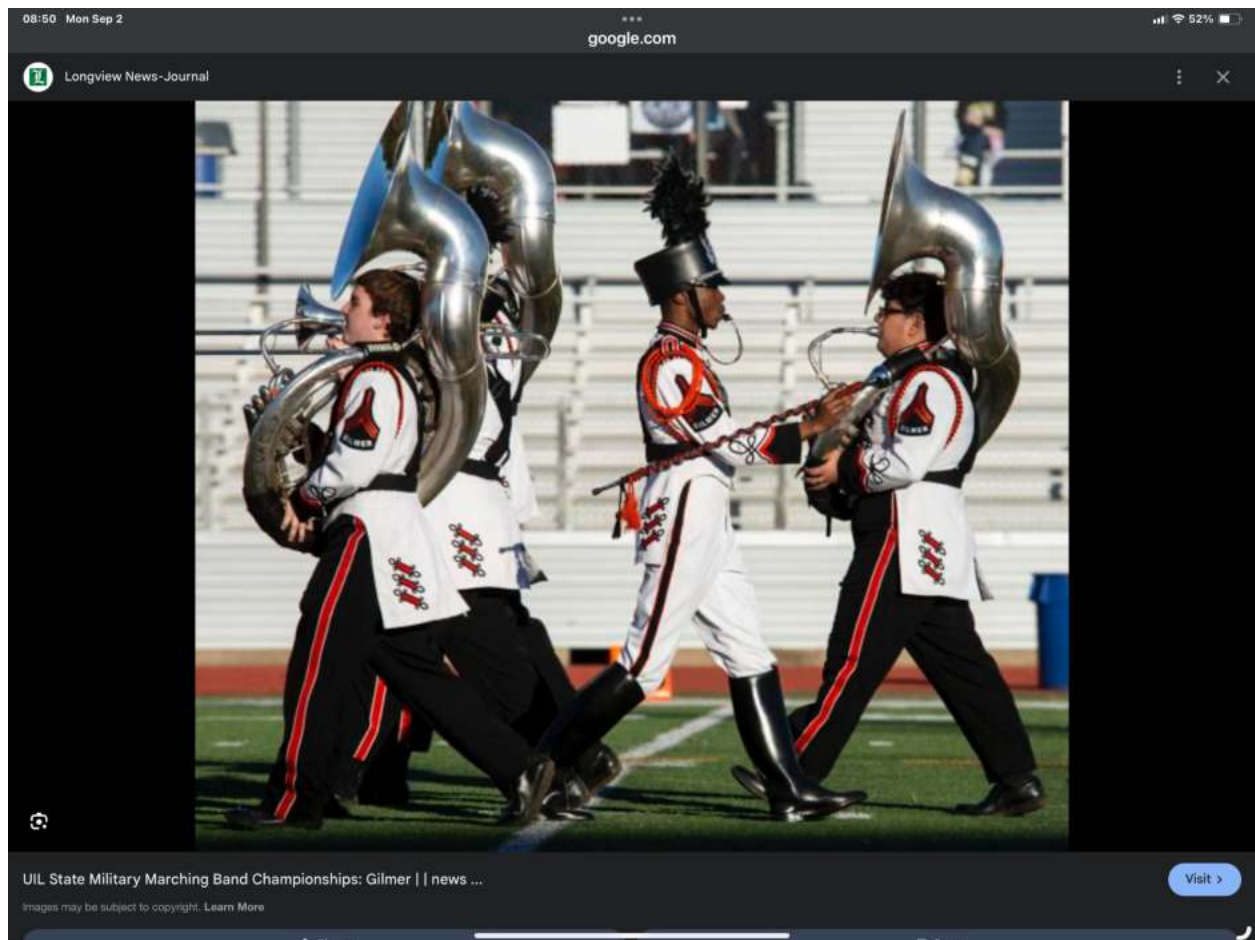
US Navy Color Guard and AFJROTC Color Guard post the colors



Upshur County Judge Todd Tefteller: proclamation and Resolution
State Representative Cole Hefner: Texas House of Representatives
State Senator Bryan Hughes: greetings from Gov Greg Abbott, and Resolution from Texas Senate
US Congressman Nathan Moran: resolution from the US Congress
Senator John Cornyn, resolution from US Senate and greetings from the White House

*****Armed Forces Medley Gilmer HS Band

📺 Armed Forces Medley 2023 (Including Space Force!) Memorial Day Concert



Keynote Speaker: Alan Metzel, coach of the Texas State Champion Gilmer Buckeyes

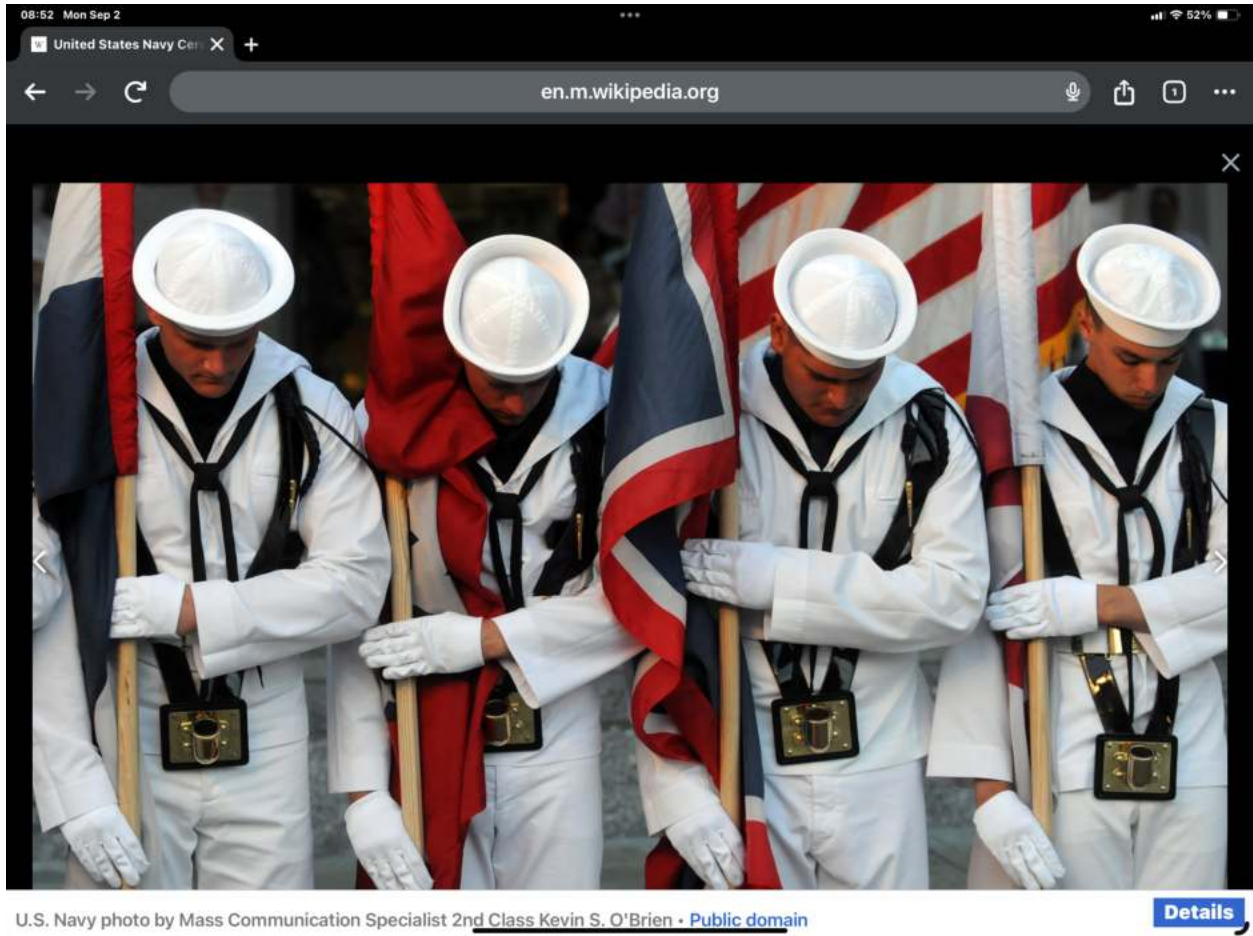


UNVEILING OF THE MACHEN HISTORICAL MARKER

Sam Machen, Billy Machen's son; and the Machen Family
Gwen Jewett, Exec Dir Upshur County Historical Commission,
Amorette Burch Exec Dir East Texas Yamboree Assn,
Gloria McLuckie, Exec Dir Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce
And Combat Veterans led by
LT Col Larry Tefteller USA Ret, Ranger and Vietnam Combat Veteran
LT Col Rex Morris, USAF Ret, Vietnam Combat Misty FAC,



US Navy Honor Guard post the SEAL flag




ANCHORS AWEIGH GILMER BUCKEYE BAND



USMC FA/18 SUPER HORNET 4TH MARINE AIR WING VMFA-112 COWBOYS (invited)

 **Anchors Aweigh - US Navy Band**

AIRSHOW * VETERANS SALUTE * MISSING MAN

 **Airshow music .mp3**

4:15 PM Flight of the Phoenix Escadrille T-6 Texans Missing Man Tribute; WWII US Navy Ens Billy Stevenson and Vietnam US Navy Ens John Mack Dean

<https://fotpam.org/flyovers/>.



🏠 Texas Motor Speedway Video June 8 2014

The Missing Man Formation

The Missing Man Formation:

Looking heavenward you cannot help but shed a tear... mournful...
lonesome... a hole that screams out almost as loudly as the roar of the
engines that pass overhead.

This is The Missing Man Formation... perhaps the most magnificent and
solemn aerial maneuver ever seen. It symbolizes the singleness of purpose
that members of a military organization must achieve to accomplish their
mission.

The rapid departure of the wingman, his upward path curving westward,
represents the soul of our fallen comrade, leaving the close bonds of his
military organization, ascending to God in Heaven.

The continuation of the formation on its assigned course symbolizes the
steadfast commitment of our fighting forces to achieve the goals of civilian
leadership, regardless of the sacrifices required to keep our country free.

The vacant formation position reminds us that our fallen comrade's
sacrifice will never be forgotten; that the debt of gratitude we owe this
nation's defenders can never be repaid.

Whether flown with the wingman spiraling off into the great beyond or,
flown consistently with that awful hole where a buddy should be... this
dignified, almost painful to watch maneuver is a part of military combat
history.

The acknowledged gift purifies our ideas and brings us all together in
sympathy and unity of purpose.

Flight of the Phoenix Escadrille renders this solemn tribute to the memory
of all patriotic men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice to
keep America the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

In modern day and times, Escadrille solemnly extends the Fly-Past honor to
worthy patriots.....aviators and aviatrix who have flown West.....both
civilian and military.....veteran and non-veteran.....who have contributed
greatly to the noble causes of freedom in the American way of life; and as
inspiration to those left behind

The genesis of this maneuver is one shrouded in years of faded memories,
long fought battles and countless missions almost a century old. Rumored
to have begun when British fighter pilots flew over the funeral of Manfred
'The Red Baron' von Richthofen as a sign of respect by his fellow aces, the
formation does find its birth in World War I. At some point during the Great
War, the RAF pilots created an aerial maneuver known as 'The Fly Past'...
whether this was before or after the alleged von Richthofen loss is
unknown. But it is British in origin and it was used infrequently and
privately during the War.

By Steve Dean Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum www.fotpam.org
903 790 7435

****MUSIC - HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU

GROUP DISMISSED * FALL OUT * FAREWELL

Gilmer will be packed with visitors on Oct 17th. It is the opening day of the 87th Annual East Texas Yamboree Festival



Dedication Event Committee:

S Dean, Capt USAF Ret, Chair

Randy Hill, Event Co-Chair

Brett Williams, President, East Texas Yamboree

Jeff Dodd, East Texas Yamboree, Motorcades

Bill Gunn, Lt Col USAF Ret, Airboss

Dann McDonald, Col USAF Ret, JXI Ground Boss

Gwen Jewett, Upshur County Historical Commission ED

Amorette Burch, East Texas Yamboree ED

Gloria McLuckie, Gilmer Area Chamber of Commerce ED

Debbie Wood, Sponsor Development

Dann McDonald, Col USAF Ret, Air Combat Command

Jeremy Stowers, Maj USAF Ret GHS AFJROTC Senior Instructor

Rob Gannon, SMSGT USAF Ret GHS AFJROTC Senior Instructor

Eric Gray, GHS Director of Bands

Brandon Garmon, GHS Director of Bands

Teri Curington, Commander USNR NC Ret. Navy Liaison and Honor Guards

Troy Murray, Croley FH, Wreaths Across America, Programs

Linda Kay Dean, Memorial Park Landscaping

Wade Johnson, Johnson Pace Engineering, Architectural Design

Land for the park provided by the estate of Amy Suzanne Dean.

MISSION: Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum (FOTPAM) is remembering and honoring all those who served our country in uniform, many of whom are from Upshur County and Gilmer's extended family.

Steve Dean POC 903 790 7435 fotpam@gmail.com



Flight of the Phoenix Aviation (FOTPAM) 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.



HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU

Happy trails to you, until we meet again
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then
Who cares about the clouds when we're together?
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather

Happy trails to you, 'till we meet again
Some trails are happy ones
Others are blue

It's the way you ride the trail that counts
Here's a happy one for you

Happy trails to you, until we meet again
Happy trails to you, keep smilin' until then
Who cares about the clouds when we're together?
Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather
Happy trails to you, 'till we meet again

Happy trails to you, it's great to say "hello"
And to share with you the trail we've come to know
It started on the day that we met Jesus
He came into our hearts and then he freed us
For a life that's true, a happy trail to you

ADDENDUM:

Patriot Guard, Historic MV's, Airshow crews, Combat veterans who will be riding helos into the venue.

Lunch will be available at the Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum at Fox Stephens Field/Gilmer Municipal Airport from 12:30 til 1:30.

11:00 Patriot Guard, Historic MV's line up up at the Yamboree Event Center behind WalMart on US 271 North at 11:00 for Static Display.

12:00 Patriot Guard, Historic MV's motorcade from Event Center to Airport/Fox Stephens,Field on US 271 South

Lunch will be available AT AIRPORT at the Flight of the Phoenix Aviation Museum at Fox Stephens Field/Gilmer Municipal Airport from 12:30 til 1:30.

1:30 Mandatory Aircrew Show Briefing in Museum Ready Room: Airboss Bill Gunn, *LtCol USAF Ret, Falcon Flight AirshowTeam*. VHF 122.9, call sign Dogpatch. Military jet crews briefing via telephone. Deconfliction by Airboss Dogpatch on VHF 122.9:
Longview TRACON 127.32 Uniform 257.97

2:00 Vietnam Helos with Combat Veterans aboard, Patriot Guard riders, and Historic Military Vehicles form up and Motorcade from Airport to the Memorial Park:
Vietnam Helos leading the parade.