



The following individuals are proudly serving the United States of America in the Armed Forces. The Chandler and Brownsboro area communities are proud of you! For those who are serving overseas, we await your safe return.

If you know of someone in the military, whose primary residence is in the BISD, please let us know so we can recognize them.

- Zachary Weinger
- Matt Brown
- Paul Avritt
- John Bass
- Brian Bailey
- Ryan Barnes
- Heather Beall
- Jeremy Becton
- Casey Berry
- Ben Bevans
- Justin Brown
- Michael Wayne Bullard
- Donald Burk
- Jonathan Cannon
- Robert Carian
- Marco A. Cade Chavanne
- Robert (Mike) Clary
- Aaron Cloer
- Sunnie Coe
- Casie L. Coplan
- Danny Cowart
- Jeff Crosby
- Andy Dalton
- Philip Daniel
- Johnathan Daniels
- Jessica Delaney
- Doug Dickerson
- Mike Dunklin
- Brandon Edwards
- Scott Evans
- Joshua Fowler
- Gregory Geske
- Michael Gideon
- Greg Giger
- Donnie Goines
- Nicholas Gould
- Josh Grant
- Joseph Paden Guerra
- Edmond Hargrave
- Jayandra Hare
- John (Duce) Harber III
- James Michael Hendrix
- Cedric Herring
- Daniel Herron
- Detroy Hightower
- Roy Hobbs
- Nathan D. Huff
- Aaron Colby 'AC' Humphries
- John Charles Hunter
- Don Inbody
- Matt Irwin
- Michael Isbell, Jr.
- Ryan Steven Jackson
- Joshua Johnson
- Scott Joiner
- Eric Jones
- Bobby Jordan
- Daniel Kidd
- Jesse Kidd
- Lucas Killmeyer
- David Klaus
- Richard Lafayette
- Sam Laymance
- Robert Leed
- Oran Lewis
- Evan Lide
- Christy Loper
- Sean Lynch
- Raul Macias
- Dusty Mayer
- Jerry Mayse
- Andrew McIntosh
- Tim McMurtray
- Jason Meador
- Chris Munch
- Beau Nation
- Anthony Neeland
- Adam Newell
- Bubba Nugent
- Sarah Oliver
- Patrick Ormiston
- Douglas Owen
- Jordan L. Parker
- Chad Peyton
- Zach Peyton
- Joseph Pearson
- Joshua Phillips
- Jordan Phillips
- Dusty Pool
- Coy Powell
- Austin Rhodes
- Nicholas Robran
- Ashley Rogers
- Matthew Seda
- Jeremiah Shafer
- Angus Smith
- Cory Smith
- Luke Smith
- Michael Spencer
- Jared Staggs
- Christopher Stanton
- Emitt Swafford
- Whitney E. Sykes
- Joe Taylor
- Timothy Taylor
- Jacob Thomas
- Drew Thompson
- Deanna Thornton
- Jim Tippen, Jr.
- Jerry Tucker
- Chad Vickers
- Clay Wade
- Tim Wagner
- Christopher Wagoner
- Joe Wangler
- James Weaver
- Jacob Welch
- Shawn Werchan
- Marc Westbrooks
- Josh Wheeler
- Jamie Willard
- Lelia Williams
- Timothy Williams
- Teresa Wilson

To add or remove a name, call 903-852-7641

## ★ Prisoner of War

(Continued from page 3)

"I guess the whole thing was that the war wasn't over for us. When he wasn't on the list, it was quite silent in our home for a long time," she said.

Charlie Poole's status remained as "missing in action" until June 8, 1979, when the Defense Department declared him dead.

Not long after Rose 01 went down, the Poole family moved back to Bossier City, where her mother, who met her husband when she was in the Army Medical Corps in Denver, became active in the state chapter of a national organization for families of missing troops.

Ruth Poole, now manager of Albertson's in Baker, also became active in the organization, a role that has taken her to the White House for meetings with every president since Nixon and to gatherings all over the country.

In their quest to resolve their father's status, Poole's two brothers visited the crash site in Vietnam in 1995, she said.

"Mom wanted to see that Dad would be accounted for, that he wouldn't just remain missing in action," she said.

In July 1994, the family visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, although her mother was in a wheelchair and required morphine to ease the pain of cancer, Poole said.

After seeing her husband's name on the black granite wall, Laura Poole told her children not to give up.

After the Clinton administration normalized diplomatic relations with the Vietnamese, arrangements were made to examine the crash site of Rose 01, about nine miles from Hanoi.

After several excavations and DNA comparisons four years ago, the Army lab positively identified 19 bone fragments that were to be turned over to the family for burial. The Poole family is still waiting for a final resolution.

Poole said part of the delay has been in identifying the remains of the other missing crewmen. She also said President Clinton is credited with the diplomatic initiative that led to the discovery of her father's body, but his administration has not provided enough money to adequately finance the identification lab and the search efforts.

Poole is looking forward to the day when she and her brothers and sisters are allowed to bury the remains of their father next to their mother's grave in Bossier City.

"I hope it is soon. I'd like to see this resolved. We've all been in this fight together," she said.

*Editor's Note: The conclusion of this story, "Remains of soldier missing in Vietnam found (The Associated Press) September 30, 2003" can be found in next week's issue of The Statesman.*

## Kids can share wishes with Santa during Dec. 8 Ben Wheeler Christmas celebration

BEN WHEELER, Texas - Santa Claus comes to town on Monday, December 8, accompanied by a lighted parade, music from the Van High School choir, a tree-lighting ceremony, and more.

Santa will arrive in a sleigh at the Pickin' Porch and firehouse park complex for the community festivities that also include refreshments, a mini snow machine, and a chance for kids to get their photos made with the "jolly old elf" himself. It all happens from 6-9 p.m. downtown.

Parade participants, so far, include Above & Beyond Paint & Body, Big A's Videos, Door Control #1 and #2, First Baptist Church, First State Bank, Martins Mill High School band, Mooseburg Insurance, RMT Trucking, Sam's Deli, Van High School band, Wood County Electric Cooperative, a double-decker bus, fire engines, cheerleaders, mud bog/reindeer, and Santa and his sleigh.

In the spirit of the sea-

son, one of the event's sponsors, First State Bank of Ben Wheeler, also hosts an Angel Giving Tree to help provide gifts for children in need. Stop by the bank on Highway 64 to select a labeled tag from the tree that notes a child's age, gender and gift wish.

Then purchase a gift for that child, wrap it, and bring it back to First State Bank. Hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday.

Ben Wheeler Development Company (BWDC), which arranged the event with Santa, is returning the southern Van Zandt County community to the way it looked in 1935 and bringing new businesses, cultural attractions, and a new attitude to the area. The project will take at least three years or more to recapture the old-fashioned atmosphere with an even longer timeline for some projects.

In a community with a thousand or so nearby residents, there will be

music venues, new restaurants, new shops, and a fully restored downtown park complete with gazebos as part of the plans.

Ben Wheeler, named for the first man to carry mail into Van Zandt County, thrived during the late 1800s and early 1900s as families arrived in horse-drawn wagons, rode horses, or walked to visit, get mail, buy supplies, and sell or trade goods at one of the several general stores.

The community included churches, barbers, blacksmiths, tailors, saddle and shoe shop, several gins and mills, a bank, the Berry Resort Hotel, boarding houses, a movie theater, lumber yard, a garage with gas pumps eventually, cafes, a school, and even a college at one time called the Alamo Institute. Ben Wheeler shrank after World War II as many people left for large cities to find work.

For more information about First State Bank's Angel Giving Tree, call 903-833-5861 or 903-833-1070 email j.mcmahon@bwdc.net, or go to www.benwheeler.tx.com.

# Beall's ad

## From the Bible

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

-Psalms 24:1

### ACREAGE FOR SALE

3.5 acres, City of Chandler, Old Noonday Road frontage.

Very nice building site. All City utilities available.

903-852-6841

### Can someone you know cook?

If you or someone you know would make a good Cook of the Week call Nathan at *The Statesman* to set up a time to be interviewed. You may also email us your suggestions.

903-852-7641

or statesman@embarqmail.com

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