

# SPECTATOR

October 2018

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CYPRESS CREEK LAKES

Volume 7, Issue 10

## Senior and Volunteer Spotlight

*by Jackie Devine and Jill Bright*

Recently, local Cypress seniors visited the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Bill and Beth Wilson accompanied me out to the lovely Barbara Bush memorial and gardens. On the way, Bill told me of the time he spends at A&M because of his involvement with the Corps of Cadets.

As a Missourian, I knew little Corps history and asked Bill to grant me an interview. He agreed but said the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association had just published an article on Beth and him---of which I requested and received in short order. It was a perfect accounting of my friends and their dedication to the things they hold dear. Jill Bright, the author of the article, graciously granted me permission to reprint it. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.



### Volunteer Spotlight: Bill & Beth Wilson

*by Jill Bright*

When William "Bill" and Beth Wilson took their son, Jonathan '08, to Freshman Orientation Week (FOW) in 2004, little did they know that the Corps of Cadets would not only change his life but theirs too. Jonathan is a first-generation Aggie and, much to the Wilson's delight, chose to join the Corps.

As a senior in high school, Jonathan spent the night with Squadron (SQ) 2, and thought he would be a Gator. At FOW, however, he was assigned to SQ 3, and he became a Thunderbird, although he remained friends with the Gators. Taking an active role in Jonathan's Corps experience, the Wilsons came to College Station for all of the march ins, reviews, and outfit BBQs. They met other SQ 3 parents and quickly developed a friendship with Henry

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(Continued from Cover)

'66 and Linda Goodwin, whose son, Michael '03, was in SQ3.

The Wilsons started helping at the outfit BBQs and attending the Goodwin's tailgate. The Wilsons met Don Crawford, Executive Director of the Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets Association (CCA), at the CCA trailer, which began the foundation for a relationship



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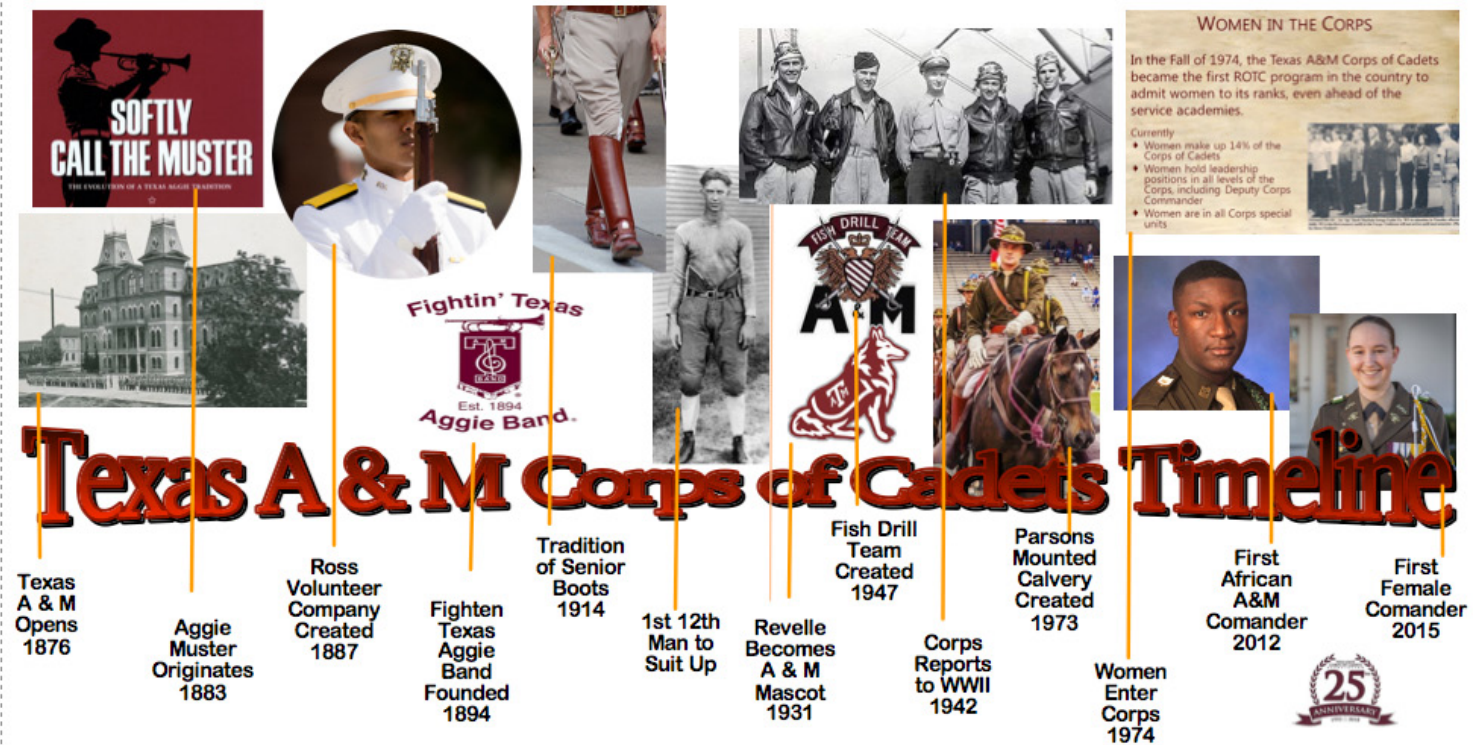
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**SOFTLY CALL THE MUSTER**  
THE EVOLUTION OF A TEXAN MUSTER

**WOMEN IN THE CORPS**  
In the Fall of 1974, the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets became the first ROTC program in the country to admit women to its ranks, even ahead of the service academies.  
Currently:  
• Women make up 14% of the Corps of Cadets  
• Women hold leadership positions in all levels of the Corps, including Deputy Corps Commander  
• Women are in all Corps special units

**Aggie Band**  
Est. 1894

**Fightin' Texas**

**25th Anniversary**

**Texas A & M Corps of Cadets Timeline**

- Texas A & M Opens 1876
- Aggie Muster Originates 1883
- Ross Volunteer Company Created 1887
- Fightin' Texas Aggie Band Founded 1894
- Tradition of Senior Boots 1914
- 1st 12th Man to Suit Up
- Reveille Becomes A & M Mascot 1931
- Fish Drill Team Created 1947
- Corps Reports to WWII 1942
- Parsons Mounted Calvary Created 1973
- Women Enter Corps 1974
- First African A&M Commander 2012
- First Female Commander 2015



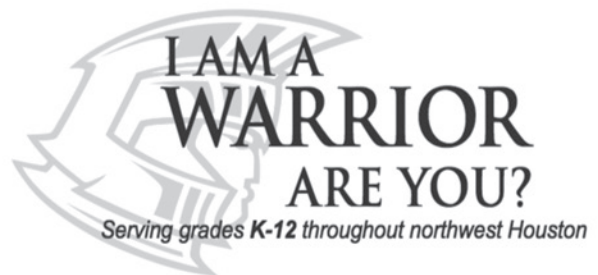
that still goes strong to this day. As CCA members, Crawford asked them to volunteer at Rally to the Guidons in 2009. “I remember being surrounded by Ol’ Ags waiting to get their shirts,” recalls Bill. “There was so much excitement in the room and we just loved it! We were hooked.” Since that time, the Wilsons have rarely missed the opportunity to volunteer at CCA and Corps events.

In 2015, the Wilsons chose to move to Cypress—exactly 67 miles from the A&M Koldus garage—in order to be closer to College Station. “We really wanted to be close enough that we could reach College Station easily and not need to spend the night,” says Bill.

Although Jonathan graduated in 2009 (with a bachelor’s and a master’s degree), the Wilsons never stopped attending SQ 3 BBQs.

(Continued on Page 4)

## CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



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They would purposely seek out those Cadets whose parents lived out of state and most likely could not visit often and try to make them feel special and part of a “family away from their family.” They have “adopted” Cadets and are known to some as “my Aggie Parents.”

Bill is blessed with the love of photography and has taken photos of Cadets for the last 14 years. Each time he returns to Aggieland, his backpack is loaded with photos in separate Ziploc bags with different years and outfits on them to hand out accordingly. He also faithfully shares his photos with the CCA to be passed on to other parents through the CCA’s Flickr\* account.

As one could imagine, the Wilsons are in high demand because of their devotion and loyalty to volunteering. When people ask them to volunteer, Bill says, “We would love too, but let me check our calendar.” He checks his calendar to make sure there is not a CCA or Corps event that conflicts. “The CCA and the Corps are our number one priority,” says Bill. “We will not miss a CCA event!” In the past ten years, Bill can recall only missing a few, and only recently because of the birth of their grandson, Wesley.

When the Wilsons are not volunteering for the CCA or the Corps, they are active in the Harris County Republican Party and

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spend as much time with their grandson as possible. A recent photo received of Wesley from Bill included a note that says: "Sending you a photo of why we need to stay in good health. Eighteen years from now, I want to be at FOW when our grandson checks into the Corps." What a legacy to carry on with proud grandparents right there to cheer him on from the sidelines.

The Wilsons are not only Aggie parents, but also Aggies for life.



After the first visit to A&M they fell in love with the University, the Corps of Cadets, and with the CCA. "We volunteer because the CCA strongly supports the Corps," says Bill. "The Corps makes leaders and the Cadets are some of the finest young people we have ever known." The Wilsons have played a large role volunteering at the CCA for many years. The CCA could not do it without Bill and Beth and we are honored to have them not only as wonderful volunteers, but also as members since 2004! Thank you Bill and Beth for all you do for the CCA!

*The Corps is known as the "Keepers of the Spirit and Guardians of Tradition" because the cadets are charged with preservation and execution of time-honored traditions. Whether it's the Ross Volunteer Company conducting a three-volley salute at Silver Taps or Aggie Muster, Parsons Mounted Cavalry firing the Spirit of '02 cannon every time the Aggie football team scores, or caring for Reveille, Texas A&M's official mascot, the Corps of Cadets ensures Texas A&M traditions live on, just as they have for over 140 years.*

If you are interested in finding more out about the Corps of Cadets Association, please checkout their website: [corpsofcadets.org](http://corpsofcadets.org).

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## ST PETERS FALL BAZAAR

St. Peter's Anglican Church announces their Fall Bazaar, to be held on Friday, November 2 and Saturday, November 3, 2018, at the church at 19915 Cypress Church Road, Cypress, Texas 77433. You are invited to come and shop and visit where we will have vendor booths of homemade items, a bake sale and a New to You booth. There will be two quilts and various gift items for raffle. Doors open at 8:00 AM and we will end at 3:00 PM each day, and there will be lots of gift ideas for all ages. Our theme this year is Olde World Bazaar and Toys.

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### Activities

Games

Costume Contests

### ENTRY: DONATION of non-perishable FOOD items

Republic will be donating all non-perishable FOOD items to the AMAZING local organization Cy-Fair Helping Hands which focuses on helping kiddos specifically within CFISD. With Thanksgiving coming up what better way to help and support those in need than to provide items that could make their holiday a bit better. We appreciate any and all donations!



## 21st Annual Salute to the Stars Gala

Thursday, October 18, 2018, the Cy-Fair Educational Foundation (CFEF) will host its 21st annual Salute to the Stars Gala at the Berry Center. Our underwriter, Cy-Fair Federal Credit Union along with major sponsors IBI Group, Dally+ Associates and Prairie View A&M University join us in celebrating Cypress-Fairbanks ISD 2017-2018 Teachers of the Year. The evening's celebration is highlighted with teacher drawings, a guest speaker, dinner, entertainment, raffle and live auction.

The gala honors a Teacher of the Year from each campus for their outstanding dedication to students in Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, along with two paraeducators and two support staff selected for their notable work on campus. Salute to the Stars has raised more than \$3 million for innovative staff development programs for district teachers and instructional leaders, and scholarships for graduating seniors. At the 2017 Salute to the Stars, the Foundation presented the District with a check totaling \$95,190.72 for staff development programs. This past May, Cypress Fairbanks ISD students were awarded over half a million dollars in scholarships from the Foundation.



CFEF was established in 1970 as a non-profit to raise money to fund a scholarship for high school graduates in the area. Over the past 48 years, the Foundation has grown tremendously through the efforts of the Board of Trustees and the generosity of the Cy-Fair Community. The Foundation has awarded over \$8 million in scholarships to more than 1700 graduating seniors. CFEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, all contributions are tax deductible, as allowed by the law.

Sponsorships are available for Salute to the Stars, for more information please contact Marie Holmes at [marie@thecfef.org](mailto:marie@thecfef.org) or 281-370-0144.



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