



The wreath laying parties, consisting of currently serving Soldiers and retired veterans, salute the colors during the playing of the National Anthem at the annual Wreath Laying ceremony at CSJFTC.

Wreaths

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he said. “We’re grateful to them for their steadfast dedication so today we’re going to honor our military spouses as well.”

This year’s event featured a special ceremony in which Brewer presented the Silver Star and Citation (posthumous) for Sgt. Robert S. “Shane” Pugh to Wilma Allen, mother of the fallen hero.

Sgt. Pugh was killed in action in Iraq on March 2, 2005, while serving with the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard. Brewer read the citation to the assembled Gold Star Mothers and attendees.

“Attention to orders: The United States of America – to all who shall see these presents, greetings. This is to certify that the President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress 9 July 1918, has awarded the Silver Star to Sergeant Robert Shane Pugh, United States Army, for exceptional display of heroism and selfless service on 2 March 2005, during military operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Sergeant Pugh’s courage and disregard for his own welfare resulted in saving the life of a



fellow comrade who was severely wounded. His bravery is in keeping with the finest traditions of military heroism and reflect distinct credit upon himself, First Battalion 155th Infantry Regiment, Multinational Corps Iraq, and the United States Army. Signed, John M. McHugh, Secretary of the Army.”

The ceremony continued with wreath laying parties placing memorial wreaths at each of the unit and battle monuments on the museum grounds in honor of the courage and sacrifice of the brave American service members who gave their all in the service of our country. After the wreaths were placed, a firing party fired three volleys and a bugler played “Taps” in memory of the fallen.

“For over 12 years now we’ve been engaged in a long-

term struggle against violent extremism,” said Brewer. “In the world, terror will not rest, violence will not sleep, and evil will not die. If we honor and remember those who have served, compassion and justice will triumph and freedom will reign. I ask you to remember those who stand shoulder to shoulder against terror and oppression to carry freedom’s torch in foreign lands.

“Remember the Soldiers, support their families, and never forget the missing, and rejoice in their lives. In closing, I’d like to leave you with a quote from President John F. Kennedy who said, “A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors and the men it remembers.” Thank you, God bless America, and let freedom ring.”



Center, Mississippi National Guard Director of Joint Staff, Brig. Gen. Allen E. Brewer, addresses the assembly. Above, the color party of the 177th Armored Brigade raises the colors. At left, the firing party delivers a 21-gun salute in honor of the Mississippi Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coastguardsmen who gave their lives in the service of our nation.

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