



# Memorial Day 2011

Dallas Baptist University hosted its 14th Annual Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 30, in the Great Hall of the John G. Mahler Student Center.

A DBU tradition, the Memorial Day Service is a special time for area veterans and families of veterans, both living and deceased, to praise God for His blessings on our country. It also serves as a time to remember and honor those who have given their lives for our country and those who continue to put themselves in harm's way to protect our freedom.

The event began with a medley of patriotic music, played by Sue Mitz, DBU professor of music. Afterwards, Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president, welcomed those gathered and gave a special recognition to those veterans present at the service. Dr. Cook then called upon Ron Pemberton, director of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, to share a brief word as well.

This year's guest speaker was former Dallas mayor and current U. S. Senate candidate, Tom Leppert. Prior to becoming Dallas mayor, Leppert led major

corporations in the areas of construction, financial services, and real estate. As CEO of Turner Construction, he moved the Fortune 500 firm's headquarters to Dallas. A lifelong community volunteer, Mr. Leppert has served numerous community groups and charitable organizations on both the local and national levels. Mr. Leppert holds an M.B.A. with Distinction from Harvard Business School and graduated cum laude from Claremont McKenna College.

Mrs. Laura Leppert, wife of Tom Leppert, also spoke briefly during the ceremony and told about the work of the Daughters of World War II Veterans, an organization which Mrs. Leppert currently chairs. She also gave a special recognition to all of the WWII veterans who were present at the service. Mrs. Leppert serves as a member of the DBU Board of Trustees.

*Pictured above: (left) Tom Leppert, Laura Leppert, and their son Ryan, who is a current DBU student. (right) Bill Rogers, DBU development officer, and his father, Orville Rogers, who is a World War II veteran and a long-time DBU friend.*



Air force veteran Orville Rogers (far left), who spoke during the service, along with other WWII veterans.



Dr. Tom Vann, retired military colonel and director of the DBU chaplaincy program, gave the opening prayer.



Over 100 people gathered in the Hillcrest Great Hall to celebrate the 2011 Memorial Day Service.