

**NORTHEAST TARRANT**    MAY 5, 2016 4:52 PM

# Tarrant County prayer warriors take 'Wake Up America' theme to heart

## HIGHLIGHTS

National Day of Prayer events held across county

Thursday's area observances included prayers, patriotism

Trophy Club event featured mayors of three cities





BY MARTY SABOTA

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TROPHY CLUB — Community members and civic and religious leaders gathered across Tarrant County on Thursday for the 65th annual National Day of Prayer.

This year's theme of "Wake Up America" was evident at the prayer gatherings.

At Fellowship United Church in Trophy Club, mayors from nearby cities read parts of a proclamation officially declaring a day of prayer in their respective municipalities.

"Whereas our nation was founded upon a firm bedrock of faith and, throughout history, Americans have prayed as a means of seeking comfort, giving thanks and asking for guidance during times of strength and times of weakness, in moments of joy and moments of despair," recited Westlake Mayor Laura Wheat.

Trophy Club Mayor C. Nick Sanders followed, saying, in part, "... the National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans and is a day that transcends differences, bringing together citizens to honor God and give him thanks for the many liberties and blessings we have received, among them the freedom to gather, worship and pray."

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Irma Thomas, Fellowship United Church in Trophy Club

Roanoke Mayor Carl E. Gierisch Jr. finished, saying, in part, "... on this day, leaders and citizens across our nation and state will join together to seek the face of Almighty God to acknowledge our dependence on him, to seek his grace, goodness, strength and protection upon us as a people and a nation; and to pray for peace throughout the world during these trying and challenging times."

Events were morning, noon and night, indoors and out, and featured prayers and speeches by religious, civic and government leaders and military and law enforcement personnel. A portable prayer labyrinth was used at First United Methodist Church of Colleyville and prayer balloons were released at a countywide celebration in Burnett Park in downtown Fort Worth.

At the event in Trophy Club, history played a big role, said Irma Thomas.

“The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation,” she said.

For the first time in its nearly quarter of a century of observance, the event was held indoors in Trophy Club.

Weather has occasionally been a factor, forcing the event to move indoors at the last minute about a half dozen times. Also, sweltering heat has been an issue some years, with those in uniform and others having to cope with the elements.

However, skies were clear and sunny Thursday, and temperatures were near perfect.

The event was highlighted by prayer for the nation and its governmental leaders, military, media, businesses, schools, churches and families.

The Roanoke Fire Department Honor Guard presented the colors and the program included attendees reciting the pledge of allegiance.

The events spread far beyond Tarrant County as an untold number of prayer warriors participated nationwide.

“For one day out of the year, we join with millions of other Americans in bringing light and hope to our country through the power of prayer to almighty God,” Thomas said.

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