



Legacy of A City's Youth Well Served – Clemens High School 50th Anniversary

Saturday, January 20, 2018, marked the celebration of the Clemens High School's 50th anniversary. The occasion was marked by an open house celebration at the school campus that was second to none in its offerings of historical remembrances and alumni reunion opportunities. The agenda for the day began at noon with welcoming of dignitaries and distinguished alumni and concluded at 3:00 p.m. with a closing ceremony that included special commentary from several former Clemens' principals and former school district superintendents. Throughout the festivities, rousing performances were given by Clemens' choirs, band members, the Stars and Bells Dance Team, cheer leader squad members, and, the ROTC Cadet Drill Team. Special campus tours were led throughout the event by selected Clemens students. School-related historical displays were tastefully displayed throughout the interior campus and the large guest contingent seemed fascinated by all of the historic artifacts and photos. One special artifact on display was the original drum-major baton used by then drum-major Gary Mueller during the last school year of Schertz-Cibolo High School and the first school year of Samuel Clemens High School. Gary and his wife were present at the ceremony and hand-delivered the baton to school administrators for permanent display within the school trophy case. Two panel discussion events took place in the school auditorium. One of the discussion groups consisted of distinguished Clemens alumni discussing their most memorable remembrances of their Clemens school day experiences. The second panel included former school and City dignitaries along with Schertz/Cibolo legacy family representatives. The Schertz Historical Preservation Committee (The Committee) was represented on the latter panel and Committee Chairman Dean Weirtz spoke to the legacy left by the Joseph and Anne Marie Schertz family. Children's activities were also included in the event. A scavenger hunt was made a part of the festivities for those who cared to participate. Children were treated to face painting and a bouncy house facility. There were lots of alumni present and all were amazed by the excellent planning that went into the event.

The Committee was extremely proud to be an invited display and presenter participant. There is great pride in the 1967 physical development of the Samuel Clemens school building. It is also important to remember that it was all brought about through the toils and on the shoulders of men and women whose legacy should always be remembered and honored. Such legacy includes the mid-19th century labor of citizens who constructed and taught in the first one-room school houses along FM 1518 and at the Cibolo Lower Valley School (recently lost to demolition). That legacy includes property advancements such as the 1916 construction of a two-story school building for grades 1-11 in Cibolo and a follow-up construction in 1917 of another two-story school building for grades 1-12 on Main Street in

Schertz. It encompasses the 1940 conversion work that led to the formation of the Schertz-Cibolo Consolidated Common School District, a forerunner to today's Schertz, Cibolo, Universal City Independent School District (SCUCISD). It's a legacy forged by the many dedicated teachers, coaches and school administrators responsible for development of the school curriculums and student character throughout the early years.



