



Reba's Ranch House

Recognizes volunteers and meal ministries

Over 60 of Reba's Ranch House volunteers, along with staff and friends gathered together this week for the House's *Second Annual Recognition and Awards Luncheon*.

The luncheon honors volunteers who help to provide a welcoming and comforting home away from home for families staying at the Reba's Ranch House while visiting loved ones in area hospitals.

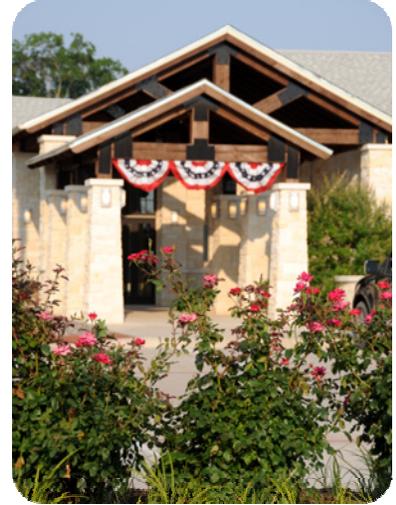
Reba's Ranch House and the Texoma Health Foundation staff prepared the lunch using recipes collected from the House's Meal Ministry Program. The meal ministry is comprised of local churches and groups who prepare and deliver warm homemade meals for the families each week. Board of Director, **Brett Graham** said, "so often our families spend their entire day at the hospital and come back to the House tired and spiritually drained. A smile and a warm meal means so much to them. On behalf of the Board, we thank you".

In addition to meal ministry, volunteers help support the House through delivery of pantry items, administrative tasks and cleaning. Board of Director, **Margie Morris** said, "all of our volunteers extend the staff capacity of the House. You are not simply filling a spot that needs to be filled. Regardless of the way in which you choose to help, you each bring unique skills and gifts that you share to comfort others during some of their most difficult moments".

RRH Director, **Marilyn Bice** closed the luncheon with a presentation of certificates and awards. Churches participating in Reba's Ranch House Meal Ministry were each recognized and presented with a certificate of appreciation. She said, "without you all this would simply be a brick and stone building. **Each of your kind deeds, whether you bring food, paper products, pray for our guests or volunteer, breathes life and laughter into brick and stone, creating a true home**".

Bice shared that this year the Ranch House added an **Internship Excellence Award**. College interns provide assistance to the House throughout the year. She said that **Shruiti Hegde** from **Austin College** was chosen for the award in recognition of the hours Shruiti has invested, and the kind spirit she brings to the House.

At the close of the luncheon, Bice presented the House's highest volunteer honor, the **Betty Holland Service Award** to **Ron and Pat Ballou**. Ron grew up in Denison and graduated from Denison High School in 1960. He attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University before joining the U.S. Navy. He spent four years in the military, with two years off and on in Vietnam. Upon release, he was employed with several different companies, retiring after 20 years from Conagra Foods. Ron came to the Ranch House as a volunteer in 2004 and became a permanent employee in 2006. He worked at the Ranch House from 2006 until this past year when he and his wife Pat moved to the Dallas-area. Bice shared that Pat could always be found behind the scenes helping to work special events and projects right by Ron's side. "It just felt fitting that they received this recognition as a team. Their absence is greatly missed by all staff, at both the Foundation and the Reba's Ranch House. Their contributions over the years helped to make the House a place of comfort and care".



*Remembering
the sacrifice
of our men and women
on this
Memorial Day Weekend
and everyday*



The Betty Holland Service Award

was established in honor of Reba's Ranch House volunteer, Betty Holland. Betty was one of the House's first volunteers who began her service when the House opened in 1992. She cared for families each and every week for over twenty years.

Ranch House staff now select a volunteer each year that exemplifies Betty's care and dedication to bringing joy to others.



5036 Reba Drive
Denison, Texas
(903) 337-0755