



## Bush's birthday bash



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Former President Bush embraces actor Chuck Norris as Fox News' Managing Editor, Brit Hume (far right), looks on after the three skydived and successfully landed at the George Bush Presidential Library Sunday

afternoon. Bush, Hume and Norris each completed tandem jumps with members of the U.S. Army Parachute team, The Golden Knights.



JOSHUA HOBSON • THE BATTALION

Former President George Bush (front) and U.S. Army Golden Knight parachutist Sgt. Bryan Schnell complete a tandem jump from 13,500 feet above the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum Sunday afternoon.



President Bush flew into Houston to celebrate his father's 80th birthday at Minute Maid Park

The event was emceed by Larry King of CNN's "Larry King Live"

Performers included Amy Grant and Vince Gill, Randy Travis, Wynonna Judd, Irish tenor Ronan Tynan and comedian Dennis Miller

The Bush Endowment announced that it raised more than \$55 million to benefit the Bush Library Foundation, the Points of Light Foundation and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center

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SOURCE: JIM MCGRATH, BUSH SPOKESMAN

## Bush gets his wings Sunday

By Brian D. Cain  
THE BATTALION

Former President Bush waved to the crowd amid the cheers of 5,000 spectators as he landed from his much anticipated parachute jump Sunday over the grounds of the George Bush Presidential Library.

Bush skydived to celebrate his 80th birthday and to show people that age is no reason to slow down one's lifestyle.

"Bush is also jumping today to celebrate the 229th birthday of the U.S. Army and the 227th anniversary of the adoption of the American flag," said Lt. Col. Dave Standridge, commander of the U.S. Army Parachute team, the Golden Knights. "Bush was extremely disappointed that we had to do a tandem jump today, because of all the hours of training he had gone through (to jump solo)," Standridge said.

Because of high winds around the drop zone, the Golden Knights decided it would be best to make the skydive a tandem jump.

Upon landing, Bush was awarded the U.S. Army's basic parachutist badge for successfully completing his fifth parachute jump.

"This badge contains a small bronze star inset in it, which indicates that the wearer has made a combat jump into hostile territory," Standridge said.

Bush parachuted over the Pacific Ocean during World War II when his naval aircraft was shot down near the island of Chi Chi Jima in September 1944.

Bush was excited about his jump and ready to do it again.

"It was a real thrill for me; I had no fear being in the hands of the Golden Knights, the most qualified, the best parachutists we have in the U.S. military," Bush said. "It was absolutely fantastic. I got to jump this morning, and I don't know about going back and asking them if I can do another one a few months from now, but I'm thinking about it."

"It's been a great day, and we're very, very grateful to the Golden Knights," Bush said.

Martial arts action star Chuck

## 5,000 friends, family celebrate birthday

By Brian D. Cain  
THE BATTALION

In an event best described as spectacular, former President Bush celebrated his 80th birthday with 5,000 of his closest friends on Saturday at Minute Maid Park in Houston.

The event, though on the heels of former President Ronald Reagan's funeral, was a celebration of Bush's career in public service filled with celebrities, entertainers and heads of state.

The party started with a VIP reception in the food vendor section of Minute Maid Park. Sections of the area were filled with food and decorated to reflect stages of Bush's

life. Of the six sections, the Maine section offered Maine new potatoes with lobster and mini creme brulee, while the Texas A&M section had chicken fried steak fingers and Blue Bell ice cream.

The event began with the Houston Symphony Orchestra playing for a restless crowd until an announcer's voice said, "Ladies and gentlemen, the president of The United States of America and Laura Bush." The appearance of President Bush and first lady Laura Bush drew wild applause from the crowd.

While Larry King, of the CNN television show "Larry King Live,"

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## Texas A&M students get involved at 41@80 event

By James Twine  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students not only watched former President Bush skydive on Sunday to celebrate his 80th birthday, they were also involved with the entertainment and assistance during the day's events. "The day was absolutely amazing," said executive vice

president of student government association Chris Diem. "It was a great event honoring a great man, and I am very glad to have participated in it."

The Aggie Wranglers, Singing Cadets, Sigma Alpha sorority, Aggie Men's Club and the Student Government Association were some of the organizations that were involved with the 41@80 event

on Sunday at the George Bush Presidential Library.

The Aggie Wranglers and Singing Cadets performed at the barbecue luncheon after the Bush skydive and the U.S. Army Parachute Team demonstration, in front of a host crowd of dignitaries and guests.

Those dignitaries and guests were met and assisted by Aggie students as they

climbed off the Challenger 3985-led Union Pacific Train from Houston and were shuttled by bus to the drop zone on the Bush Library grounds.

Student Government Association representatives assisted the guests from the train to the shuttles and gave the guests a rundown of the schedule of events to take place.

Diem said that it was a great

experience to meet and talk to people like Jeb Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

"On the bus I was able to talk and socialize with some of the people that were in attendance and meet people that you wouldn't meet otherwise," Diem said.

Diem said he thought having

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