



Photo by ANDREW BUCKLEY

The crowd takes photos of dancing dragons during the 12th Annual Chinese New Year & Kung Fu, Tai Chi Class Reunion Banquet on March 8, 2014, at the Humble Civic Center. The event featured guest speaker Bill "Superfoot" Wallace and martial arts demonstrations. (Photo by ANDREW BUCKLEY/The Observer)

Everybody was Kung Fu fighting

By **NATE BROWN**

Wang's Martial Arts' 12th annual Chinese New Year Banquet Saturday, March 8 was a night steeped in Chinese heritage.

Martial arts demonstrations from WMA students, traditional Chinese lion dancers, a fashion show of traditional Chinese regalia and a guest appearance by some of the top martial arts instructors in the world, including Bill "Superfoot" Wallace were all in celebration of the Chinese culture and especially the life of the late Houston martial arts pioneer Victor Cheng.

More than 1,000 guests attended the event to celebrate the legacy of Cheng, the man largely responsible for bringing kung fu to Houston.

Wallace, who appeared in movies with Chuck Norris and Jackie Chan, is the only karate champion to retire undefeated and whose roundhouse kick has been clocked at 60 miles per hour, saluted Cheng at the ceremony.

"He was a great martial artist and a good friend," Wallace said. "To be asked to be here tonight was an honor."

Wallace's legendary martial arts career included winning more than 20 consecutive fights in the mid to late 70s, ultimately winning the Professional Karate Association Middleweight World Full-Contact Champion, receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from Century Martial Arts and is currently a Grandmaster 10th degree black belt.

Wallace was front row for martial arts presentations from dozens of youngsters learning karate basics all the way up to adult black belts.

"Our sport or our art is no different from soccer or football or basketball," Wallace said. "But, our sport may save your life one day. I have a ball teaching kids. I've been teaching martial arts for 50 years and I still love it."

Wallace taught specialized clinics Sunday at Wang's Martial Arts, located at the corner of Wilson Road and Business 1960 in Humble.

"It was a successful event," Yun Yang Wang, owner of WMA and organizer of the event said. "It was really good for the students to get to see famous instructors."

EVERYBODY WAS KUNG FU FIGHTING



Photo by ANDREW BUCKLEY /The Observer

Students of Wang's Martial Arts perform Tai Chi during the 12th Annual Chinese New Year & Kung Fu, Tai Chi Class Reunion Banquet on March 8, 2014, at the Humble Civic Center. The event featured guest speaker Bill "Superfoot" Wallace and martial arts demonstrations. (Photo by ANDREW BUCKLEY/The Observer)



Photo by ANDREW BUCKLEY /The Observer

Students of Wang's Martial Arts perform a Kung Fu routine during the 12th Annual Chinese New Year & Kung Fu, Tai Chi Class Reunion Banquet on March 8, 2014, at the Humble Civic Center. The event featured guest speaker Bill "Superfoot" Wallace and martial arts demonstrations.



Photo by ANDREW BUCKLEY /The Observer

The crowd watches a fashion show of traditional Chinese clothing during the 12th Annual Chinese New Year & Kung Fu, Tai Chi Class Reunion Banquet on March 8, 2014, at the Humble Civic Center.



Photo by ANDREW BUCKLEY /The Observer

A dragon dances through the crowd during the 12th Annual Chinese New Year & Kung Fu, Tai Chi Class Reunion Banquet on March 8, 2014, at the Humble Civic Center. The event featured guest speaker Bill "Superfoot" Wallace and martial arts demonstrations.



Photo by ANDREW BUCKLEY /The Observer

A dragon visits with audience members during the 12th Annual Chinese New Year & Kung Fu, Tai Chi Class Reunion Banquet on March 8, 2014, at the Humble Civic Center. The event featured guest speaker Bill "Superfoot" Wallace and martial arts demonstrations.

Area's Best Business Review

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MARCH WEDDING -- Caitlyn Hermes and Matt Clamon will exchange wedding vows at 4 p.m. March 22. The ceremony and reception will be held outdoors near Livingston. The bride-to-be's parents are Jimmy and Angie Hermes and the groom-elect's mother is Sonya Clamon and his grandmother is Jennie Battise.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMENDATION -- Marilyn Kidd of Goodrich received a commendation on March 8 for outstanding achievements at the 12th Annual Chinese New Year, Kung Fu and Tai Chi Class Reunion Banquet in Humble. The award was presented by a representative from the Culture Center of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston. Among her many achievements were successfully taking and passing the progressive colored belt tests, including black, which she earned at the age of 83. In addition, she completed three parts of the long form, simplified forms, Sabre forms 1 and 2, Mirror Image of form 1 and the Double Edged

Retired teachers do

CORRIGAN -- A \$500 donation to the Corrigan-Camden Primary School library was presented recently by the Polk County Retired Teachers Association.

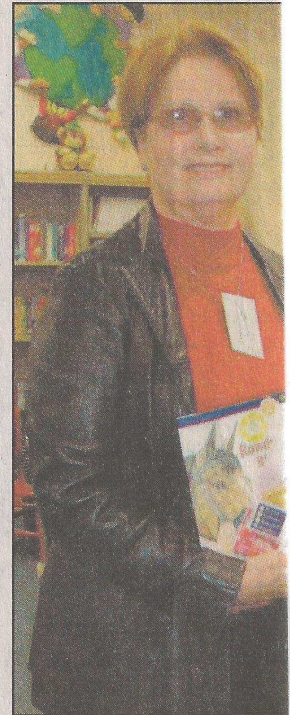
In addition to the cash donation, the association also donated books to the school was to help fulfill the goals of the Texas Children's Book Project, which call for each pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade student to be given his or her own book to take home.

The group rotates their donation so that books go to different school districts each year.

PCRTA is a service organization of retired school employees. Any retired school employee who draws a pension through Texas Teacher Retirement System is invited to become a member.

During a recent meeting of PCRTA, a presentation about bee keeping was made by Karla Rudebusch, who together with her family own Rudy's Honey. The bee keeping business has been in operation for 33 years.

At one time they traveled to Michigan for the spring and summer months and to Livingston for the fall and winter. Rudebusch explained that the pollen in different areas produces different honey.



BOOK DONATION -- Camden Primary School student in pre-kindergarten, and check to librarian S chairwoman.

As their children grew, the decided to settle down to one location and in 1991 they chose to live in Polk County. Rudy's Honey can be found in local stores and they also ship barrels of honey elsewhere for commercial use.

Butler finishes basic training

SAN ANTONIO -- Air Force Airman Jesse L. Butler graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in San Antonio.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

