

Comal Independent School District

NEWS RELEASE

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Thousands attend memorial for John Farias

Less than 24 hours after the national celebration of Independence Day, more than 2,000 people gathered at Canyon High School's (CHS) Cougar Stadium to remember a fallen hero and recognize the freedom he gave his life protecting.

Flags were waving at half-staff in honor of Lance Cpl. John Felix Farias, a 2009 graduate of CHS, who was killed in Afghanistan last week. His fellow classmates in the Class of 2009 organized the celebration of his life on Tuesday evening.

"Looking at the turnout tonight, family takes on a whole new meaning," said Les Davis, CHS football coach, who knew Farias when he wore the No. 33 jersey during the 2008 season. "John's family is huge. Here tonight is the family he was born into, his Marine family, his Cougar family and his Canyon America family."

Kyle Cameron, Farias' cousin and a fellow Marine, said he "had an amazing heart. He was an amazing guy."

Chris Serna, one of Farias' friends, spoke about keeping his memory alive. "Every day that goes by, I pray that he will live through me."

Mementos, including a powerlifting weight, a softball and his football jersey, each signed by his classmates and teammates, were presented to the Farias family. Classmate Teegan Luckemeyer wrote and recited a poem, "You Are."

Farias will be buried in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery with full military honors.



Ashley Wiley and Teegan Luckemeyer place John Farias' football jersey on stage prior to the celebration of his life.



Cadets from the Canyon High School JROTC program present the colors to begin the evening.

More than 2,000 family, friends and community members turned out for the celebration of John Farias' life on Tuesday.

