**Shady Grove Cemetery**

**5th Annual Browning Stew & Silent Auction 2023**

Shady Grove Cemetery held the 5th Annual Browning Stew & Silent Auction 2023 at the pavilion on Sat., Nov. 4, 2023, 4:00 pm. A fantastic and fun time was had by all, with 53 folks in attendance.

Delicious Hopkins County stew was prepared over a campfire by our Stew Crew, Carl and Sonya Smith & family of Sulphur Springs and Larry Finney. Many, many thanks to the Smith family for being a special part of our event and for sharing their expertise!!! Homemade chili and all the fixings, frito chili pie, and hotdogs, along with some yummy cakes for dessert were enjoyed, too. Much appreciation to our Chili Cooks, who were Joyce Wisdom Vanginault, Marilyn Browning Burrow, and Sherry Mills Finney, and to all our directors for making desserts!

Thank you to all who donated silent auction items and much appreciation to the bidders and our cemetery supporters. Thank you to our Silent Auction Team, consisting of Kathy Brewer Brown, Belinda Baber Riley, and Sally Bellomy Richardson, for their organizational skills with the silent auction. Ron & Cathy Lawson, local musicians and singers, provided country and western music to enjoy, which set a relaxing and wonderful atmosphere at our fall event. They love to perform, and they do it so well!! Thank you for sharing your talents with us! What a fun and productive night we all had!!

Our cemetery projects fundraiser benefited $3,532.00 from stew ticket sales, silent auction proceeds, on-site donations, and mailed donations. Wow!!!!!! Our cemetery supporters showed up AND showed out!!! Thank you to all!!

Special thanks to our fabulous cemetery directors, the best in Texas! Whatever it takes, they do it with a smile on their faces!! Thank you to Linda Mills Roycroft and her fantastic decorating skills for this event. She is always willing to help with whatever project we are doing! Thank you to Benton Burrow, Colton Hamilton, Tori Hamilton, and Clay Newsom for your help in whatever needed to be done, from setting up tables and canopies to hauling chairs to cleaning up, etc. It’s a team effort, for sure!!!

Our next upcoming event will be our 4th Annual Wreaths Across America ceremony and live wreath-laying on our 106 veterans’ gravesites on Sat., Dec. 16, 2023, 1:00 pm, at the pavilion. Thank you, cemetery supporters, for making this event possible with your generous donations to purchase wreaths. This year’s nationwide theme is “Serve and Succeed.” Our featured speaker will be John Mumby, local veteran and member-at-large of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Colors will be posted by representatives of Carl E. Azbell American Legion Post 340, Winnsboro, TX. Ron and Cathy Lawson, local musicians, will sing “American Trilogy.” Come join us for this special event as we commemorate the sacrifices made by our veterans. God bless the USA! Volunteers to help lay wreaths are very welcome! Contact Sherry Finney at 903-438-7455 for more information. A small reception will follow the laying of the wreaths. #serveandsucceed2023 #wreaths2023 #iloveamerica2023