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FORT BEND COUNTY REMEMBERS TEXAS ICON

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Fort Bend County Historical Commission Chairman Chuck Kelly welcomes the audience to the Lamar Day ceremony on Friday, honoring writer, attorney and statesman Mirabeau B. Lamar, who lived from 1798 to 1859

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Honoring Lamar.



"I never hope a life to claim, a passport to exalted fame, 'Tis not for this I sometimes frame, the simple song..." reads Calvary Episcopal seventh-grader Genesis Griffin at the Lamar Day ceremony on Friday honoring at the Morton Cemetery. To the left is Calvary Episcopal Headmaster Malcolm Smith, and to the right are seventh-graders Maddie Iversen and Paul Lazarou.

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*I never hoped a life to claim, a passport to exalted fame.
'T is not for this I sometimes frame, the simple song.
Contended still, with humble name, to move along.
I write because there's joy in rhyme; It cheers an evening's idle time;
And though my verse the true sublime may never reach,
Yet Heaven will never call it crime, If truth it teach."*

Calvary Episcopal seventh-grader Genesis Griffin read these words aloud to a crowd of around 40 people at Morton Cemetery on a cold Friday morning, quoting Mirabeau B. Lamar's poem "Apology."

It was the 10th annual Lamar Day ceremony, honoring the historic writer, attorney, statesman and poet who lived from 1798 - 1959.

Local Richmond residents including Mayor Evalyn Moore and city staff, history enthusiasts and guests from far and wide, The Sons of the Republic of Texas -- Sidney

Sherman and Stephen F. Austin chapters, and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, gathered at the cemetery to honor the historical figure.

The event began with a welcome from Fort Bend County Historical Commission Chairman Charles Kelly.

Tom Green and The Texas Army presented the colors, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Fort Settlement Chapter member Molly Smith presented a pledge and Richmond Mayor Evalyn Moore presented a proclamation.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas then laid a wreath on Lamar's grave and Calvary Episcopal Preparatory students shared readings of Lamar's penmanship.



Shown from left, The Sons of the Republic of Texas members Tom Houston, Carl Hill, President Steve Manis, Glen Camp, James Glover, and Michael Bailey line up at the Morton Cemetery in Richmond to honor Mirabeau B. Lamar. The men are part of the Stephen F. Austin and Sidney Sherman chapters.
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Kelly welcomed the three students, expressing that it's "a delight for us old-timers. "It's always great to have younger people involved in these events. They studied the heroes of Texas and different events that took place during this period of history."

Calvary Episcopal seventh-grader Paul Lazarou read Lamar's iconic poem "The Modest Petition of a Newspaper Editor," which Lamar dedicated to Samuel Houston in 1841.

“Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar is known for many things as Texas was fighting for its independence from Mexico,” said Lazarou. “He is known as a diplomat, a military leader, a politician who became Secretary of War in the provision of government of Texas, then vice president of Texas.

“In 1838, the president of Texas. But what you probably don’t know is that Lamar is also a poet.”

He noted the poem “speaks to the political atmosphere of the day.”

Calvary Episcopal seventh-grader Maddie Iversen read Lamar’s poem “Soldier of the Cross.”

“As a student of a Christian school, we hear daily about the promises that we receive as Christians,” she reflected. “Lamar speaks to us as a warrior and a Christian in ‘Soldier of the Cross.’”



Tom Green of the Texas Army shares some history of writer, attorney and statesman Mirabeau B. Lamar, who lived from 1798 to 1859, at the Lamar Day ceremony at the Morton Cemetery in Richmond on Friday.

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Tom Green, of the Texas Army, shared historical stories about the Texas influencer. “His enemies called him a better poet than a politician,” said Green.