

# Parade: From Page 1A

float decorated with American flags. Horrified spectators could only watch as the carnage unfolded.

Pam Shoemaker from Monroe, La., said she and her husband, a special operations veteran, were on the float ahead of the one that was struck. Shoemaker described how the celebration so quickly turned sour.

She said her truck had just crossed the tracks and was moving slowly but never stopped. All around, the crowds lining the parade route cheered.

"It was beautiful," she said Friday. "There were lots of people with signs. Children yelling 'thank you!' waving flags."

Then they heard the train coming. There was no warning — she hadn't seen or heard it until it was upon them. The Shoemakers jumped from their truck and ran toward the other one, knowing it would be hit in a matter of seconds. The crossing barriers had just started to come down, she said.

"We started to jump off of our trailer. We saw people jumping from the other trailer and then there was the impact," Shoemaker said.

Sudip Bose, who was a front-line physician in Iraq, said Friday that the immediate aftermath reminded him of a combat triage situation. Veterans were already tending to the wounded when he reached the crash site. Bystanders tried to help with the limited medical supplies available.

"Instincts kicked in. They were applying tourniquets, holding pressure to the wounds," said Bose, who served in Fallujah and Baghdad and was volunteering at the parade.

Sixteen other people were hurt in the crash.

"It was a scene of total chaos," said Bose, of nearby Odessa.

Shoemaker credited the training and courage of the veterans who jumped to help the injured. Her husband, Tommy, resuscitated one person and applied a tourniquet to a bleeding woman.

"They are trained for tragedy," Shoemaker said.

Spectators described their horror and helplessness as the train hurtled toward the flatbed tractor-trailer that was unable to move because of other floats in the parade.

"The train honked its horn, but the 18-wheeler could not go anywhere

because of the other one being right in front of it," said Daniel Quinonez, who was waiting in his vehicle as the parade went by. "It was a horrible accident to watch happen right in front of me. I just saw the people on the semi-truck's trailer panic, and many started to jump off the trailer. But it was too late for many of them."

Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gary Stouffer, 37, and 47-year-old Army Sgt. Maj. Lawrence Boivin were pronounced dead at the scene, Midland police spokesman Ryan Stout said. Army Sgt. Joshua Michael, 34, and 43-year-old Army Sgt. Maj. William Lubbers died later at Midland Memorial Hospital.

Of those hurt, four are in stable condition and one is critical, Stout said. Ten others were treated and released from the hospital in Midland, about 320 miles west of Dallas.

At a prayer vigil Friday morning, Mayor Wes Pamy's voice cracked as he described how he had met Boivin and his wife a day earlier.

"It's hard to believe today that he's not here anymore," Pamy said.

National Transportation Safety Board officials arrived in Midland on Friday to investigate. NTSB board member Mark Rosekind said Friday afternoon that the agency is conducting a thorough investigation, but didn't offer any details. Another news conference is scheduled for later in the day.

On NBC's "Today" show Friday, NTSB chairwoman Deborah Hersman said the train was equipped with a forward-facing camera.

"That will give us some video images if it survived the crash and we can download it, as well as recorders on the train," Hersman said. "We're going to be looking at the signals ... and making sure that the gates and lights were coming down."

Late Thursday, Union Pacific spokesman Tom Lange said a preliminary investigation indicated the crossing gate and lights were working. He did not know if the train crew saw the float. The black box from the train will determine its speed at the time of impact.

Federal Railroad Administration records reviewed by The Associated Press show that there have been 10 previous collisions — five cars and five trucks — at the same railroad crossing since 1979. Six drivers were injured in those accidents, but there were no fatalities. The trains involved

were moving slowly at the time of the previous accidents, between 15 and 25 miles per hour.

The parade had been scheduled to end at a "Hunt for Heroes" banquet honoring the veterans. The wounded service members were then going to be treated to a deer-hunting trip this weekend. The events were canceled.

The events were organized by Show Of Support, a local veterans group that says its mission is to "lift the spirits of our U.S. troops and disable veterans" through hunting and fishing. The group's president, Terry Johnson, has not responded to emails seeking comment and his phone number was unlisted; the phone rang unanswered at the group's offices.

Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta was saddened by the news of the accident, Pentagon spokesman George Little said in a statement, adding that Panetta's "thoughts and prayers" are with the victims and the community.

Midland is about 65 miles south-east of Seminole.

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# Banquet: From Page 1A

Wimmer, a Wound Care Specialist with the Seminole Hospital District, was presented the 2012 award by 2011 recipient Roy Lynn Barnes.

"She is a role model who has a servant's heart and is willing to help wherever she may be needed," said Barnes of Wimmer.

A mother of four and wife of 2003 Co-Citizen of the Year, Shane Wimmer, Teena Wimmer is also active with community and family activities that includes: sporting/theatre events, baking for family and friends, an active member of the Seminole Rotary Club, an active member of the St. James Catholic church, and a board member of the M. S. Doss Youth Center.

She has also served as a member of the Gaines County Relay for Life and Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

"I was absolutely shocked," said Teena Wimmer. "My kids didn't even tell me I was getting this because they usually let the word out. But, I am very humbled to have received this award because I feel there are many more who are deserving of this award as well."

The McGills were presented in Wednesday's banquet by former "Keenager of the Year" Joyce Dow, who along with her late husband, Gene, were named to the honor in 2011.

"The 2012 Keenager of the Year is once again being awarded to two people who have worked together as a team for this community for many years," said Dow. "Both can be depended on to do anything they can to further the Seminole community and make it a better place to live."

Joe McGill is a 1949 graduate of Seminole High School, a 1953 graduate of Texas A&M University and served as an Army officer in the Korean Conflict. He also has served as the Gaines County Attorney and currently maintains a local business and serves as chairman for the Doss Foundation.

Sandra McGill taught for more than 30 years in the Seminole Independent School District, is a current member of the Seminole Garden Club and the local Retired Teachers Assoc.

The McGills are members of the First United Methodist Church of Seminole.

# Taylor: From Page 1A

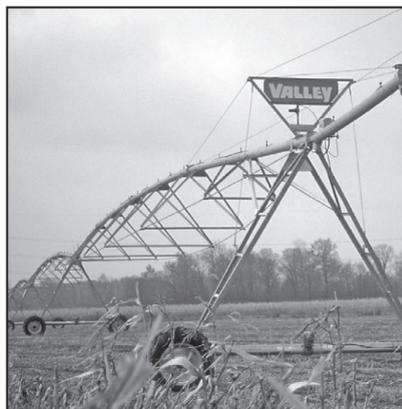
In addition to overseeing the local department, Taylor also currently serves on the executive board for the Texas Trauma Service Area B RAC (Regional Advisory Council) for the South Plains area and previously served as Chair for this as well. He also serves on the Executive Board for SPEMS (South Plains Emergency Medical Services). He is an advanced coordinator through Texas Department of State Health Services for Seminole EMS Training program conducting all levels of EMS Certification. Taylor also is advanced certified in Critical Incident Stress Management.

Taylor has written several grants for the Seminole EMS Dept. during his tenure as Director, three of which were granted for new radios for the department, and another which resulted in a matching grant purchase of a new ambulance for the local department.

Taylor began his EMS career in 1980 in Earth, where he became a basic EMT and volunteered with several other EMS services before moving to Seminole in 1988. While in Seminole, Taylor obtained his intermediate and paramedic certifications through the local department.

Other award winners from this past week's conference included:

- EMS Public Information/Injury Prevention — Fayette County EMS, La Grange
- EMS Citizen — Jasiah Rubalcava, San Antonio
- EMS Telecommunicator — Patricia Ancelet, Nederland
- EMS Educator — Ronna Miller, Dallas
- Designated Trauma Facility — Citizens Medical Center, Victoria
- EMS Medical Director — Henry Boehm, Brenham
- EMS First Responder — Kemah Fire Department, Kemah
- EMS Provider — Austin County EMS, Bellville
- EMS Person of the Year — Phillip Rogers, Fort Worth
- EMS Hall of Fame — Van Williams, Webster
- GETAC's Journey of Excellence — Ronald Stewart, San Antonio
- Hall of Honor (line of duty deaths) — Michael Hatley of Houston, December 29, 2011, and Michael Steffen of Salt Flat, March 12, 2012.



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