



Tarrant County: Our North Texas Home

HELPING HANDS REACH ACROSS THE WATER Tarrant County, North Texas Respond to Hurricane Harvey



*Tarrant County Judge
B. Glen Whitley*

Here in Texas we had one of our finest moments in the midst of a devastating tragedy.

Boat by boat, neighbor by neighbor, hands stretching across the water lifted us all to a higher level and purpose.

Even as Hurricane Harvey laid waste to the Texas coast and hammered Rockport, Houston, Beaumont and Port Arthur in late August, Texans from across the state rushed to southeast Texas with trucks and boats to assist in rescue operations.

In Tarrant County, 18 fire departments and other agencies deployed more than 160 first responders – firefighters, emergency medical technicians, 10 ambulances, a dozen boat crews and two saw crews.

They joined Air Force and Navy active duty and reserve, the National Guard from Texas and nearby states, Louisiana's makeshift Cajun Navy and all of those volunteers.

Yes, the volunteers.

The neighbors who did what they could, sometimes risking their own lives, no matter if their house was dry or soggy.

The Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base became a staging area for rescue aircraft and personnel. Folks from Tarrant County helped out at the San Antonio staging area.

In the days following the disaster, tens of thousands of individuals made charitable contributions to food banks, shelters, the American Red Cross, nonprofits and other relief foundations. Large tech companies, supermarket and drugstore chains, banks, entertainment companies, furniture stores and others stepped up with donations of goods and cash.

Local governments worked hand-in hand with state and federal agencies, nonprofits and the faith-based community.

Weeks before the North Texas Giving Day of September 14th, Hurricane Harvey tested the Lone Star spirit and our resolve as a people and we came through with flying colors.

North Texas opened its arms to Harvey's evacuees. Several thousand set up camp in shelters in Fort Worth and Dallas. Some are staying with relatives or going home.

Initial estimates of repair and rebuilding in southeast Texas from Hurricane Harvey could reach \$160 billion, making it one of the most costly natural disasters in the nation's history.

Several hundred thousand people have applied for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



A rescuer carries a young boy through hurricane flood waters.

Federal officials, for their part, have said that it will take many years to sort out the impact of the storm and the federal disaster relief that is needed.

When the skies cleared after the Great Flood, Noah sent out a dove. With nowhere to land it returned quickly. A week later, the dove came back with an olive leaf in its beak and a week after that it did not return at all, signaling it had found a home.

Rebuilding and renewal is a process. There is so much to do. The waters of the Great Texas Flood from Hurricane Harvey are subsiding and the work of reshaping our lives and restoring our communities has begun.

All of us are ready to do whatever we can to help. The walls and debris may be waterlogged, but not the spirit. We proved that when we were called in the moment. We stand ready.

We will keep everyone in south Texas in our thoughts and prayers and keep them there a long time.



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Support the Sailors on the USS Fort Worth Please Join the Anchor Club

Our Community Needs to Support Our Men and Women Who Sail in Harm's Way

The men and women sailors who serve aboard the USS Fort Worth bring great honor and distinction to Fort Worth, Tarrant County and all of North Texas.

You just know that Cowtown and all of North Texas is on board when a white cowboy hat is worn in place of the old-school sailor's white "Dixie cup" hat or ball cap as part of the Navy uniform.

These brave men and women put themselves in harm's way to protect America and our freedom.

They have our backs. We must have their backs, and that is what the Anchor Club is all about.

The Anchor Club, the USS Fort Worth Support Committee, does the best that it can for the crew and their families by providing moral support.

Community contributions allow the Anchor Club to make a huge, positive and lasting impact on the lives of our sailors and their families.

The USS Fort Worth Support Committee offers a variety of community activities that create unique opportunities for individual, corporate, faith-based and nonprofit sponsorships.

This is a great way to demonstrate your support of the crew and their families and to connect your company or your friends with our members and supporters in Tarrant County.



The USS Fort Worth - LCS3

Support of the USS Fort Worth crew includes:

- Technological resources to enhance the quality of life at sea and boost morale and welfare while deployed away from families.
- Awards for the Sailors of the Quarter and Sailors of the Year.
- Support for families with events, communications and professional or emergency assistance when a spouse is deployed.
- Financial assistance for the crew's holiday gatherings and other morale-boosting events.

What an honor to have started the USS Fort Worth Anchor Club in support of our ship's crew. The Anchor Club needs you and the crew of the USS Fort Worth needs you.

Please support the crew at USSFortWorth.org/membership.

Sincerely,

Glen Whitley
Tarrant County Judge



Crewmembers of the USS Fort Worth in western headwear.



Nearly 100 Navy ships have had a Texas connection.