



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**May 10, 2015****MEDIA CONTACT:**

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ABILENE, TEXAS –The Abilene Zoo will honor active and retired military families with a free day of food and fun on Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This will be the 11th year of the zoo's popular Zoolute to Dyess, an annual event that coincides with National Armed Forces Day, a holiday when people all over the country pay tribute to men and women who serve the U.S. armed forces.

Dyess AFB leaders and other local dignitaries will be on hand for the 8:45 a.m. opening ceremony, the singing of the national anthem and presentation of the colors by the Cooper High School ROTC.

Throughout the day, military families will be admitted free with the presentation of military ID. A free lunch and snacks will be served from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. All children are invited to bounce in an air castle, listen to keeper talks and enjoy musical performers throughout the day.

At 3:30 p.m. American and Texas flags flown over the State and U.S. capitols will be given away by raffle drawing with compliments of U.S. Congressman Randy Neugebauer and Texas State Representative Susan King.

Sponsors for the event include the *Abilene Reporter-News*, American Electric Power, Aaron's Sales & Lease, Communities of Abilene Federal Credit Union, Coca-Cola, Ben E. Keith Distributors, The Paramount Theatre, Abimar Foods and Domino's Pizza.

About the Abilene Zoo:

The Abilene Zoo is home to more than 900 animals of 250 different species. The zoo is open 7 days a week (closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last admittance is 4 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 3-12, \$5 for seniors aged 60+. Members are admitted free. Memberships start at \$30.

www.abilenezoo.org. 325-676-6085. This summer, the zoo will be open every Thursday until 9 p.m.

Mission Statement: *The Abilene Zoo is a place of learning and adventure, where families make memories, share the joy of discovery and become inspired to preserve wildlife.*