

LOOK: Chris Kyle's Texas Hometown Unveils \$1 Million Memorial, Statue



Officials in Odessa, Texas, held a ceremony this morning to unveil a statue in remembrance of "American Sniper" Chris Kyle.

The opening of the Chris Kyle Memorial Plaza comes three months after the groundbreaking to honor the hometown war hero.

Country singer Larry Gatlin joined local lawmakers in attending the event and sang the national anthem. Kyle's widow, Taya, also attended.



Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) marked the occasion with a statement paying homage to the fallen Navy SEAL, who was murdered by a fellow veteran at a Texas shooting range in 2013.

"It is difficult to adequately express our appreciation for Chris and those like him. Chris dedicated himself to his country and his fellow veterans and was taken from us too soon. The American people will be forever grateful for Chris' steadfast dedication to our Nation during her hour of need," Cruz said in a statement.

Kyle's killer, Eddie Routh, received a life sentence without parole.

The monument-sized statue stands about 15 feet tall on top of a 48,000-pound limestone base, the Odessa American reported.

Four trees from former President George W. Bush's Crawford, Texas, ranch also sit on the \$1 million plaza.

A stretch of highway in the state has also been named in Kyle's honor.



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