The evening begins….

Cadets from the MCJROTC program at Forsyth High School manned entrances, provided vigil, and escorted some of our attendees to seats.

Tops In Blue opened the evening and previewed the show.

Fort Leonard Wood provided a joint services Color Guard.

Erwin Schultze was the evenings emcee.

Cassandra performed our National Anthem.
Major Jim Schreffler was President of the Mess.

LCDR Mike Jones, USN (Ret) was the Chaplain.

The Candlelight POW/MIA service is an annual part of the GALA.

College of the Ozarks ROTC Cadets perform the Missing Man table service.

A candle and name of a POW/MIA for every attendee are part of the remembrance. They are not forgotten.
Military toasts are a part of the protocol.

Special Forces Jim Ringland, recipient of the Silver SAINT PHILIP NERI AWARD.

River Rat Jim Bell.

POW NETWORK’s Mary Schantag shared the stage for introductions and sponsors recognition.

Former POW Jasper Page, escaped captivity in Vietnam.

MG David Quantock and Mayor Presley officiated at the Community Covenant signing.
The Tyler Project’s Kylie Hughes added her signature to the Community Covenant signing.

Col. Gary Hershenroeder has orders to convey.

From Major to LTC – in front of the entire GALA.

The youngest recipient ever – the Patriotism Award recipient for 2011 was Kylie Hughes.

Tyler Juden was there in spirit.
MOAA’s President (Capt) Ann Lee and award recipient, Tom Goldsworthy.

The Lecroy Sisters’s rendition of Silent Night was haunting after the war story about it.

Hundreds of attendees, veterans and active duty, joined together to salute the National Guard and Reserves.
Our youngest guest… and the family. Mom drove hours to see dad as part of the Tops In Blue tour support.

The dinner was reserved ticket only. The Tops In Blue performance was open to the community and required extra seating and setup.

Intermission and AM Pyrotechnics “all American” fireworks shoot out front.
It was our honor and privilege to host Tops In Blue and have them as entertainment. The performance was the same as our troops see when TIB travels to their bases to bring them a part of home all year. Their energy, commitment, and performances were amazing and we were thrilled to recognize their sacrifice as United States Air Force members. It truly became a night to remember.
LTC Schreffler’s wife Julie.

Branson Task Force Office Manager Barb Riggle.

River Rat Carole Thompson.
One of Tops In Blue founding members recognized by all – Jerry Van Dyke.

A standing ovation for Tops In Blue.
Mr Van Dyke and the directors join TIB to take a bow.

P.O.W. NETWORK Chairman, Chuck Schantag.

The Schantags and the Hughes.

Former Pueblo POW, Charlie Crandell and Mary Schantag convey Congrats.

The Schantag’s and River Rats, Mac and Nancy Poll.