

Quiet local remembrances mirror nation's

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A single voice rang out shortly after 8:46 a.m. Thursday as an employee at the George Bush Presidential Library sang an impromptu version of *God Bless America* in front of eight half-lowered flags.

The small crowd gathered didn't join in or offer more patriotic songs afterward, as others did across the country following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks two years earlier. But two dozen Texas Task Force 1 members in attendance did stop in their tracks to solemnly take in the song's words.

Unlike last year's event at the same Texas A&M University campus location — which featured bagpipes, singing groups, visits by politicians and a platform set up for news cameras — Thursday's unpublicized gathering took on a more quiet, subdued tone.

A similar theme seemed to be carried throughout the county and nation on the second anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. Other Brazos County residents gathered around flagpoles or red, white and blue wreaths, bowing heads and praying alongside co-workers.

"We will never forget."

BOB BRUNER

VFW Post No. 4692 commander

In Washington, D.C., President Bush held a moment of silence on the White House lawn, contrasting with his trip a year earlier to all three airplane crash sites. Vice President Dick Cheney agreed not to attend a morning ceremony at ground zero so that families of 9-11 victims wouldn't be hampered by the intensified security.

"Everybody believes in holding these ceremonies to support the cause," said VFW Post No. 4692 Commander Bob Bruner at the conclusion of the group's