



## **SOLD-OUT CROWD FOR TBLA'S BASS UNLIMITED BANQUET and AUCTION**

By Ramona Moore

Over 650 people attended the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Toledo Bend Lake Association's Bass Unlimited – Back A Great Fighter Banquet and Auction on Friday, April 20, at Cypress Bend Park Pavilion. The evening was the high point of TBLA's 2018 fundraising which support projects that serve and benefit Toledo Bend Lake and the surrounding communities.

The evening began with guests browsing items available in the live auction, raffle drop boxes, silent auction and TBLA merchandise. The stage area of the pavilion was decorated by Lauren Moore and the staff of Nichols.

Emcee Ricky Yeldell welcomed the crowd, followed by Donna Dziekan, a Negreet High School student, who sang The Star-Spangled Banner. A barbeque dinner, featuring three meats complemented by savory side dishes was catered by Silver Star Smokehouse of Bossier City.

After dinner, auctioneer Kevin McDonald took the stage and kicked off the evening's main event with the live auction. Among the highlights of the live auction was a handmade quilt by Rhonda Dean that features the first 15 years of BU artwork. Ben and Myra Smith were the proud top bidders on this unique item.

Grand Prize Raffle Coordinator Bruce Rogers conducted the live drawing for the first two guns awarded in the 2018-2019 52-Gun Grand Raffle. John Slaughter of Youngsville won the Howa Legacy 223 rifle with scope package, and Joe Cicardo of Alexandria won the ATI Cavalry 12 ga over/under shotgun.

TBLA thanks the 2018 sponsors, supporters and volunteers who graciously donated time, merchandise, money and talents toward making this event a success. Check out The Toledo Bend Lake Association Facebook page for a complete list of Major Sponsors.

TBLA is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and funds raised through this event will be put to work to support community projects around the Lake. TBLA is grateful to everyone for making this Banquet an event to remember, and hope that you will put Friday, May 10, 2019, on your calendar for next year's Banquet.