



City of Wimberley

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 16, 2016

Congressman Roger Williams will be among the guest speakers at a community-wide event to be held this coming Saturday, May 21st, to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the devastating 2015 Memorial Day Weekend Flood that tore through Wimberley.

The event, *Wimberley Strong – A One Year Remembrance and Celebration of Recovery*, will be hosted by the City of Wimberley at the EmilyAnn Theatre located at 1101 FM 2325. Wet grounds at the Blue Hole Regional Park forced local officials to relocate the event to the EmilyAnn Theatre. In the case of rain on Saturday, the event will be moved inside the WISD's Bridges Gym at Wimberley High School.

The free event will last from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and feature a community picnic, live music and a remembrance/recognition ceremony. In addition to the festivities, plans for the *Blanco River Monument and Memorial Sculpture Garden* will be unveiled and participants will be able to donate funds for the memorial.

"We would like to invite the entire community to participate in this very special event," said Wimberley Mayor Mac McCullough. "This event will serve as a time to remember the people and property we lost in the flood, thank all of those who came to our aid, and to recognize the progress we have made in post flood recovery as a community."

A brief remembrance/recognition ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. and feature remarks from federal, state and local officials, along with a special performance of the song "*Wimberley Strong*" by signer/songwriter Robyn Ludwick and Jacobs Well Elementary students.

Following the ceremony, there will be musical performances by Robyn Ludwick and Andrew Hardin at 12 p.m. and Three Hands High with Jill Jones at 1 p.m. There will also be free BBQ sandwiches by Chef Jay for the first 750 people in line.

Several local groups will take part in the event including the Wimberley Valley Chamber of Commerce, Wimberley Valley Arts and Cultural Alliance, Wimberley Village Library, My Neighbors Keeper and Barnabas Connection.

In addition to Saturday's ceremony and celebration, the one-year anniversary of the flood will be marked by a ceremonial raising of "prayer flags" on Monday, May 23rd at 5

p.m. at the County Road 1492 Low Water Crossing over the Blanco River. For several months, local artists, Wimberley residents and visitors have participated in the *Prayer Flag Project*, creating small cyanotype (sun print) prayer flags in commemoration of the flood. On Monday, the flags will be hung over the river with each flag's words, sentiments and images being blessed by the river and by the wind.

"These flags are intended to represent an enduring remembrance and recognition of Wimberley's spirit of strength and community," said Jan Fitzhugh with the Wimberley Valley Arts and Cultural Alliance. "Following the event, the prayer flags can be individually purchased and taken home as a tribute to the *Wimberley Strong* spirit."

All the proceeds from the sale of the flags will go to support the planned *Blanco River Monument and Memorial Sculpture Garden*.

The 2015 Memorial Day Weekend Flood that devastated Wimberley damaged or destroyed approximately 350 homes in the Wimberley Valley and claimed 11 lives.