Aggie-Founded Gratitude Initiative

“Aggies gathered together on Memorial Day to raise awareness of the real meaning of the holiday while raising funds for Carry the Load non-profit partners including Aggie-founded Gratitude Initiative, which provides educational programming and support to the kids of veterans and active duty military all over the world,” wrote Joan Quintana ’92. “Carry the Load’s Dallas Memorial March brought in over $1.35 million for its non-profit partners.” Pictured are: Lee Sechrist ’89, Gratitude Initiative founder; retired Col. John Vitacca ’89, board member; John Miller ’89, board member; Sherri Sechrist ’88; Jessica Sechrist ’13; Stephanie Sechrist ’16 and Laura Miller ’16, Gratitude Initiative’s Aggie student chapter officers; Michael Vitacca ’18, member of Squadron 21.

Champion of the Barrio

“Champion of the Barrio” is the story of Robert Buryl Baty ’46, a talented Texas A&M quarterback who then became a high school football coach, taking over as the head football coach at El Paso’s Bowie High School. Football players hailed from the Segundo Barrio and regularly faced extreme (and sometimes violent) prejudice. Baty took a pioneering stand against the rampant bigotry of the era and inspired his athletes to reach for the best inside themselves. Gene Stallings ’57 called this book “an inspiring account and a great read.” Learn more at tx.ag/Baty.