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**BANK OF THE WEST HOSTS MILITARY SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

May 14, 2013/Grapevine, TX: Bank of the West hosted a rare event today when one of its senior loan officers led a Texas Army National Guard swearing-in ceremony. The event was unusual because the loan officer is a captain in the National Guard and the two inductees are his daughters who are joining.

Captain Joseph Hansen conducted the ceremony for PV2 Alexandria G. Hansen (Judge Advocate General Corp) and PV2 Victoria N. Hansen (Military Intelligence). "I am extremely proud of my daughters," said Hansen, "and not only did they take an oath to protect and defend our country, they made that promise to me. I have told my daughters the biggest thing I can give them is a country founded on freedom, democracy and justice and that their biggest responsibility is to keep it. This is a special day for our family, and we are grateful to Bank of the West for hosting this once-in-a-lifetime event."

The ceremony was attended by a number of civic and military dignitaries. Grapevine attendees included Mayor William D. Tate, City Manager Bruno Rumbelow and City Councilman Roy Stewart. WO John Peskuski of the Addison fire department led the presentation of colors, which were posted by members of several local VFW posts. Military personnel included Lt Col Darrell J. Debish and SFC Eric Larsen.

Cynthia Blankenship, vice chairman & COO, and Mike Pearce, corporate president, were among those representing Bank of the West, and Cindy Blankenship was presented a set of military coins representing the occasion on behalf of the bank. "This is a day we won't forget," said Blankenship. "It epitomizes our role as community: family, country, service. We are humbled to be able to play a small part."

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**Swearing-in Ceremony:** Add One

Established in April 1986, Bank of the West is a \$355-million full-service community bank offering personalized service, commitment to the community, and sound management. The bank has locations throughout the North Texas region and a Loan Production Office in Fort Worth. For more information, visit [www.bnkwest.com](http://www.bnkwest.com).