Luci Johnson, left, describes her childhood in the Texas White House during a ceremony to commemorate the 100th birthday of her father, former President Lyndon Baines Johnson Wednesday at the LBJ Library, located near Stonewall, Texas. On the right is limestone Ballard, who portrayed the family dogs.

Family friends mark former President LBJ’s centennial

BY KELLY SHANNON

STONETOWN, TEXAS — Former President Lyndon B. Johnson’s family and friends remembered his civil rights and education legacy during a celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth and the opening of his Texas ranch office to the public.

Luci Johnson, President Johnson’s oldest daughter, gathered at his Hill Country ranch Wednesday for a breath-taking ceremony at his gravesite along the banks of the Pedernales River.

Not called into the newly opened ranch house, but allowed to look at its 160,000-volume library, a historic weathered circular home, a horse stable, an olive, cedar, oak, and Johnson’s graveyard built on a hill.

“As you’re paying your respects,” Luci Johnson said, “we’re glad to have you.”

To her place, and we’re glad to have you.”

The ceremony marked the 100th anniversary of Johnson’s birth, and the first of two events that will celebrate his centenary. The second event, a celebration of Johnson’s administration, will be held Saturday.

“His Great Society legislation,” said Luci Johnson, “his party’s presidential nomination in 1964, his role as Vietnam war president, and his role as a US senator and ultimate president.”

Without mentioning his criticism of the civil rights and education policies, the Johnsons gathered at their ranch home, the former home of the Johnson’s parents, who gave the house to their son.

Luci Johnson speaks during a ceremony at the family cemetery to commemorate the 100th birthday of her father.

DEATH NOTICES

Ruth N. Deets

COMING: Ruth N. Deets, 90, of Columbia Pike, was born in Aug. 1918, died August 18, 2008, at Founders Pavilion. Memorial service will be held Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008, 10 a.m. at Rain Rd Chapel in Channelview. In lieu of flowers, contributions to Founder’s Pavilion;

Robert H. Hoopy


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