

# Chamber's annual gala brings glittering crowd

Chamber ————— Continued from Page 1A

Among ladies dressed in glittering sequins of red, mysterious black, and pink velvet gowns and dresses, and men in their black tie finest, Hyatt's professional staff served a delectable dinner of tenderloin and chicken, with a heavenly, and sinful, chocolate dessert.

Wendel welcomed the crowd warmly and the ceremonies were off to a great start led by the Bastrop High School NJROTC, who presented colors.

The Rev. Bob Long asked for the blessing and Johnny Sanders of Bluebonnet Electric Co-op, the sponsor of the evening's events, introduced keynote speaker Congressman Lloyd Doggett.

Doggett started out by mentioning that he and his wife have been married for

40 years – a reference to the fact that it was Valentine's Day.

"Bastrop is a great place to live and raise a family," he said.

Doggett talked about President Barack Obama's planned economic stimulus package and said there were parts of it he likes and some he didn't, adding that he hopes progress made in the past is not dashed by events outside of the county.

"The immediate effect here will be about \$6 million to the Bastrop school district," he said.

## New award

Jimmy Bush introduced a new award at the banquet. The "Friends of the Environment" award celebrates those who make a substantial contribution to

helping keep the Bastrop area ecologically sound and by attracting people to taking part in those special, natural wonders in the county.

Some of those awards were given to the Audubon Society, Pines and Prairies Land Trust, Bastrop Paddling Trails and NatureFest.

The 2008 Points of Light Awards were given to nearly a dozen recipients "who volunteer their time and talents to make Bastrop an outstanding place to live."

The awardees, introduced by Reid Sharp, were: Lynn Fisk, Julie Hart, James and Sharon Irvin, Lucy Jones, Lula Jones, Terry Moore, Beth Murray, Jennifer Kennedy Ozley, Paula Pate, George Rollow and Gilbert Solis.



Special environmental awards were given for work done by the Bastrop County Audubon Society, The Pines and Prairies Land Trust, Environmental Stewardship, Bastrop Paddling Trails and NatureFest. Pictured accepting the awards on behalf of the several organizations are (from left) Denise Rodgers, John Cline and Ann Mesrobian.