

Former Houston Texans cheerleader and Taylor graduate, Angie Neal makes Katy proud once again.



Katy Native,

# Angie Neal

## Proudly Takes the Mrs. Texas Title

Written by Ashley Withers

Self-described as optimistic, compassionate, and ambitious, Angie Neal's selfless attitude and wonderful personality have earned her a prestigious crown. The Katy native currently holds the title of Mrs. Texas United States, representing both the Lone Star State and her hometown at the national level. "It's a dream come true," she says on winning Mrs. Texas United States. "Being able to represent our great state is amazing. I am looking forward to traveling and getting to meet new faces."

### The Queen of Katy

Neal was born and raised in Katy and is a graduate of Taylor High School. "I love the hometown feel and that we have everything we need here," she says. "We have great shops, amazing restaurants, a rich history, and wonderful people." She even stayed close to Katy for college, graduating magna cum laude from University of Houston with a degree in hotel and restaurant management.

A pageant veteran, Neal got her start in Katy. "Originally, I got heavily involved with pageants my junior year of high school to begin accumulating scholarship money for college," she shares, adding, "But some of my first experiences were in the Katy Rice Harvest Festival Pageant."

Although she has competed in more than 15 pageants, the Mrs. Texas competition stands out from all of the rest for a special reason. "During the competition, I heard a performer singing 'Unchained Melody,' which was my wedding song," says Neal. "I thought that could be a sign of good things to come."

### Achieving Her Dream of Crowns and Gowns

During the 2010 Mrs. Texas United States Pageant, Neal captured the title after three events, including swimsuit and evening gown competitions and an interview. The evening gown event is Neal's favorite part about competing in pageants. "It's true pageantry," she says. "You feel like a princess!"

In July, she went on to compete in the Mrs. United States Pageant, making it all the way to the top 12 contestants in the nation. "The

Mrs. United States Pageant was a blast," says Neal. "I met some wonderful women and made some great memories!"

She credits her success to her parents, who have lived in the Katy area for more than 30 years and who have supported her throughout all her endeavors. "They are the most selfless people I know," she says. "They always helped my sister and I achieve our goals, but never gave the 'goal' to us. We had to put in some hard work to achieve our dreams and I feel that is what has helped shape me to become the person I am today." Neal's sister, Nikki, is a junior at University of Houston and is also a Katy resident.

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### Taking Center Stage

Before she was Mrs. Texas, Neal was a part of the inaugural cheerleading squad for the Houston Texans and cheered on the team for three seasons. "It was a great experience," she shares. "I love dancing and performing, so it was right up my alley. Being in front of 70,000 screaming fans always left me awestruck." During football season, she can still be seen on the sidelines of Texans games helping out the current squad.

It's important to her to stay involved in the community, and she makes it a top priority in her busy life, regularly volunteering with the City Wide Club. Neal and her husband, Rob also enjoy cheering on the University of Houston Cougars and helping out with the university's scholarship fund.

She also serves as the territory development manager for the business solutions division of Office Depot, as well as the executive director for the Miss Teen Texas-World Pageant. She enjoys the chance to mentor teens from around the state and help them prepare for the national pageant. "I want them to gain a certain level of independence and a confidence within themselves that if they put their mind to it, they can achieve," says Neal of her work. All of these activities and her sweet spirit make her the perfect representative of Texas and someone Katy can be very proud of. KM

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