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April 2014

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco
Official Historical Center for Texas Rangers
Home of the Texas Ranger Bicentennial 1823-2023

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**Military
Appreciation
Weekend: May 24th,
25th & 26th**



Texas Country Reporter Visits Museum

Airing This Weekend

Since 1972, Bob Phillips has traveled the backroads and told the stories of real Texans - ordinary people doing extraordinary things. *Texas Country Reporter* celebrates the history, emotion and beauty that make Texas and Texans so unique. Airing the weekend of April 5th and 6th, viewers will see Bob Phillips enjoying a visit to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. Please [click here](#) to check your local showtimes and stations.



Active duty personnel, retirees and Veterans will receive free admission to the Museum while their family will receive discounted admissions (with valid id or documentation - medals, service records, photographs are accepted).

Now Registering for Summer Camp



Learn what it takes to be a Texas Ranger at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum! Texas Ranger Summer Camp is June 27th and 28th from 8 a.m. to noon both days.

On the first day, campers will have the opportunity to step into the boots of a 19th-century Texas Ranger and learn about skills critical to survival on the frontier. Day two of the program will provide campers a chance to learn about the duties of the modern Texas Rangers, including their work as Crime Scene Investigators.

Camp registration is open to children entering fourth and fifth grade. Scouting groups are welcome based on availability. The cost is \$25 per camper, and the

West Fundraiser

April 10th in Knox Center

One year ago, our neighbors in West experienced a life-altering tragedy and Central Texas was thrust into the national spotlight. Central Texas PRSA and the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum invite you to "West Revisited: One Year Later," a panel discussion of crisis response in the minutes, hours and days following the West Fertilizer Plant explosion on April 17, 2013. The panelists include: Hon. Tommy Muska, Mayor of West; Sgt. Patrick Swanton, Waco Police Department; Paul Gately, KWTX-TV Channel 10. Lori Fogleman, Baylor University, will moderate. All proceeds will be donated to the West Long-Term Recovery Center. Please [click here](#) to purchase your ticket.

WEST REVISITED: ONE YEAR LATER



Hon. Tommy Muska
Mayor of West, Texas
Panelist



Sgt. Patrick Swanton
Waco Police Dept.
Panelist

A luncheon and panel discussion about communications in the minutes, hours and days following the West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

April 10, 2014

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Texas Ranger
Hall of Fame and Museum
Waco, Texas

RSVP by April 4 (\$15-\$20 per guest)
westrevisited.eventbrite.com



Paul Gately
KWTX-TV
Panelist



Lori Fogleman
Baylor University
Moderator

All proceeds will be donated to the
West Long-Term Recovery Center



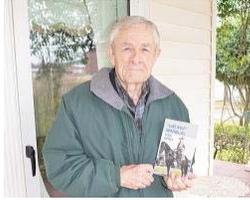
Barbs, Bullets & Blood

The Wire That Revolutionized Texas

The story of barbed-wire in Texas is a tale of innovation and imagination, entrepreneurship and salesmanship, legislation and intimidation and episodes of bloodshed.

deadline to register is Friday, June 20th. For more information, call 254-750-8631.

Jim Hamblen Spotlighted



Jim Hamblen, member of the museum's advisory board, was interviewed by J. M. JONES for the article "Overton man collects Texas Rangers artifacts for museum" in the *Kilgore News Herald*. Mr. Hamblen is one of the members supporting the 2023 Texas Ranger Bicentennial.

To read the article, please [click here](#).

Ranger Duff Named Volunteer of the Year



Ranger Ronald Duff, Co. A in Livingston, has been selected the 2013 Texas volunteer of the year for the Children's Advocacy Center of Texas, Inc.

Duff was one of 6,700 volunteers, and was recognized for his commitment to child abuse victims, the Polk



On Saturday, April 26th, four storytellers - Bob Alexander, Clifford R. Caldwell, Harold D. Jobes and Michael Barr - will present "Barbs, Bullets & Blood" at Daddy Sam's Saloon in Nocona, Texas. The event begins at 10:30 am and is \$20 per person, which includes lunch. Ticket sales benefit the Tales 'n Trails Museum in Nocona. Please call 940-825-5330 to rsvp by April 21st. For more information on the Museum, please visit www.talesntrails.org.

Distinguished Service: the Retired Texas Rangers

How You Can Contribute



The forthcoming Texas Ranger BicentennialTM (1823-2023) will bring many changes to the official historical center of the famed law enforcement agency. Among them are a series of new exhibits that will better tell the story and honor those who have served.

The first project, which you can be a part of, is ***Distinguished Service: the Retired Texas Rangers***. It will be a memorial documenting the extraordinary service of the 193 living retired Texas Rangers. Fittingly, *Distinguished Service* will be placed in a special alcove within the legendary Texas Ranger Hall of Fame. Opened in 1976, the Hall of Fame is the Texas State Monument dedicated to the Texas Ranger service.

In the *Distinguished Service* alcove will be a rotating display of personal memorabilia from the living Ranger veterans. The real meaning of these items will be made clear by the *Window on Service* component. This component will be a large touch screen display which museum guests will be able to search for more information on each living retired Ranger. The Rangers will have a personal biography documenting their law enforcement career. Special features will be added such as oral history excerpts, important case summaries and photos when available.

We are grateful to the lead benefactors of this unique memorial to service: Mrs. Holly Holt Williamson of Austin and Mrs. Andrea Catania of Midland. The installation will recognize the public service of their late father, Robert Holt, a distinguished commissioner and chairman of the

County children's advocacy center, Childrenz Haven and all Child Advocacy Centers across the state. There are 67 centers with an estimated 100 volunteers each. Duff was also the lead volunteer to bring in more than \$70,000 for two Childrenz Haven fundraisers.

Texas Public Safety Commission. He was a strong supporter of the history, heritage and service of the Texas Rangers.

Additional private and corporate sponsors are sought, and they will be prominently recognized in this alcove. This is a personal or corporate link to a State and National symbol. Your support will: provide for the exhibit design (and planning for future expansion), the construction of exhibit cases, the compilation and entry of biographical information, and computer and touch screen equipment, programming and maintenance.



Robert Holt

To support this memorial, please make checks payable (and send to) Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, *Distinguished Service*, PO Box 2570, Waco, TX 76702. Donations are deductible as charitable contributions.

Texas Ranger Trivia Contest Winners



In March, we asked, "What famous Texan was known as the 'bachelor billionaire?'"

Answer: Sid Richardson

An oilman and philanthropist, Sid Richardson was born in Athens, Texas, in 1891. He established the Sid W. Richardson Foundation in 1947 and was often referred to as the "bachelor billionaire." For more information, please visit [The Handbook of Texas](#).

Congratulations to Farris L. Rookstool, Jr. and Michael Bennett on winning a family pass to the museum. We look forward to your visits!

Gift Shop Feature: New Texas Ranger Candles!

Recap: Spring Break Round Up

Celebrating Texas Ranger Heritage

Saturday, March 15th, visitors enjoyed a camp and chuck wagon cooking demonstration by Texas Top Guns, a spinning demonstration by Christina Stopka, Head of the Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center and a presentation by Ranger Jim Hatfield. Scott Bundy of Texas Top Guns says, "For us, we get to act like cowboys like when we're 12 years old except for all the toys are cooler. It's just a blast to come out here and do this kind of stuff." Ranger Hatfield presented on the modern duties of the Texas Rangers and cases he has been involved in solving.



A special thanks to *KWTX* and *Waco Tribune Herald* for covering the event. For more event pictures, please [click here](#).



These soybean wax candles are available in four scents: Apple Cinnamon, Lavender Vanilla, Sweet Watermelon and Vintage Gardenia. The glass jar features a black outlined Texas Ranger badge and can be reused after the candle burns. Each candle retails for \$12.95.

Call (254) 750-8631 or [email the store](#) to order today. The gift shop is open 9:00 am to 4:30 pm CST daily. We ship worldwide. Sales from the nonprofit Texas Ranger Museum gift shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum.

Education Center



The following groups utilized the Education Center for programs in March:

Association of Fundraising Professionals
International Society of Arboriculture
Texas Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol
Communities in Schools
Waco Knight Riders
Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Historic Waco Foundation

Seven Layer Tex Mex

J.J. Cureton

Honored on March 5th

Museum director Byron Johnson was invited to Bosque County on March 5th to help celebrate Texas Independence Day. Event coordinator, and museum benefactor, Rodney Joy requested a program on Texas Ranger and pioneer J. J. Cureton. The program was held at his grave site on a picturesque Bosque County ranch.



J.J. Cureton (1826-1881)



"Jack" Cureton was born in Arkansas Territory in 1826 and, at the young age of 19, passed through Texas to serve as a volunteer in the US Mexican War. Returning home, he married and had four boys, one of whom later became Texas Attorney General and Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court.

During the California Gold Rush, Cureton drove cattle from Arkansas to the gold fields, an experience that impressed him with the future of the cattle industry. He moved his family to Texas in 1854 to take advantage of

the developing Texas cattle industry.

His Ranger service began in 1858 during a period of intense raiding by the Kiowa and Comanche throughout Texas. He served in a number of Indian campaigns including the Pease River Battle of 1860 that resulted in the return of Cynthia Ann Parker.

During the Civil War Cureton transferred to the Confederate home guard and was stationed at Fort Belknap northwest of Fort Worth. His service was controversial; he was charged with insubordination against a commander, whom most historians regard as a tyrant.

After the war Cureton resumed his cattle ranching in Bosque County, guided immigrants to California, and served for four years as Bosque County Sheriff.

Dip



A true Texas tradition is serving Seven Layer Tex Mex Dip at parties. Please [click here](#) for the recipe from our friends at *Tour Texas*. Enjoy!

Quick Links

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- [Knox Center](#)
- [Education Center](#)
- [Education Programs](#)
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- [Museum Video](#)
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Ovilla Christian School Visits Museum

March 5, 2014

Over thirty students from Ovilla Christian School received a guided tour by Christine Rothenbush, Marketing and Development Coordinator on March 5th. Here is the thank you card we received.



Army Soldiers Returning Home Visit Museum

By Richard Sweaney, Texas Ranger Captain (Ret.) & Board of Texas Ranger Museum

This story of how a friendship between Army soldiers and a retired Texas Ranger began a year ago on Mother's Day. Our church in Gatesville, along with many others in town, put on a Texas BBQ and Country Fair to honor and acknowledge the sacrifices of troops mobilizing at North Fort Hood. Over 600 soldiers deploying to Afghanistan, Kuwait and Guantanamo Bay attended the event.



Capt. Sweaney

I invited Major Al Alexis and Co. F Rangers Matt Lindemann, Troy Wilson and Jason Bobo to come visit with the troops at the BBQ. The Texas Rangers were a big hit and a friendship began with part of the 375th Military Police (CID). Army Sgt. Jeff Miles stayed in contact with me during his tour in

Afghanistan.

When Jeff arrived back at North Ft. Hood on completion of his deployment; he immediately asked to tour the Texas Ranger Museum in Waco along with nine other Army Investigators before going back home to Kentucky and Ohio. Museum Executive Director Byron Johnson gave them a tour. The soldiers were impressed with the Ranger Division, museum and Byron's presentation. There are so many parallels between military and law enforcement service, that I feel a relationship will continue in the future.

**Article courtesy the Texas Ranger Association Foundation*

**Save
\$2.00**

Save \$1.00 off regular adult admission for up to two adults. Coupon not valid on discounted senior or military admission. No cash value.
The museum is open 9am to 5pm with the last guest admitted at 4:30pm. The museum is located off I-35 and University Parks Drive in Waco, Texas.
For more information, call (254) 750-8631 or visit www.texasranger.org.

Offer Expires: April 30, 2014

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