Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter
Sponsored by the City of Waco
Official Historical Center for the Texas Rangers

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TRHFM Holiday
**Hours**

The Hall of Fame and Museum is closed on Christmas Day, December 25th and New Year's Day, January 1st so that staff may spend time with their families. Our regular hours of operation are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily with the last guest admitted at 4:30 pm. The Gift Shop also closes at 4:30 pm.

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**Christmas Delivery**

For guaranteed delivery of your Museum Gift Shop Christmas purchases, please order by Wednesday, December 18th. The Gift Shop accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover, and it ships worldwide. The Gift Shop is open 9am to 4:30pm CST. Please click here to browse our online catalog.

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**Big Texas Christmas Present**

**December 7th**

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Friends for Life, Big 95 KBGO and Mi Familia Car Club have teamed up for the fourth annual "Big Texas Christmas Present" to benefit Gifts for Grannies, which provides items to the elderly and people with disabilities. Donations will be accepted at the Museum on Saturday, December 7th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Anyone making a donation to Gifts for Grannies will receive FREE admission to the Museum - one admission per item. For a list of desired gifts, please click here.

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**Bicentennial Laureates**

**Exhibit Planning**

Over the years, many distinguished authors and researchers have contributed to our knowledge of the history of the Texas Rangers. Several authors have honored the Armstrong Research Center by bequeathing their libraries and research archives in trust for future generations.

Part of our Bicentennial mission is to renovate the TRHFM for future generations. Several successful expansion and renovation projects have been completed within the past five years. During the coming months, museum staff will begin to prepare for new exhibits and galleries. The heart of our Bicentennial mission is to create a new standard of exhibits interpreting the history of the Texas Rangers.

To succeed, we have recruited leading scholars and recognized them as Bicentennial Laureates.

Bob Alexander  
Dr. John Miller Morris
In Memoriam: Texas Ranger Tom Arnold

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas Edward Arnold who served as a Texas Ranger from 1969 to 1983 in Company "B." Ranger Arnold's best-known case was the rescue of the Houston family abducted by a fleeing criminal.

Please click here to read more about his distinguished career.

Tuesday Tune-ups

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum employee, Tricia Hamby, successfully coordinated a partnership between Mission Waco and Providence Hospital to provide free flu shots to all participants of the Tuesday Tune-up session given at Mission Waco's Meyer Center on November 26th.

Tuesday Tune-ups are informational and inspirational talks given during the lunch hour to help marginalized and needy citizens of the Waco area.

Tricia Hamby volunteers every month teaching about a variety of health topics to keep Waco healthy and happy while she awaits her Peace Corps assignment in spring 2014. On behalf of the City of Waco, we want to say thank you to Providence Hospital, Mission Waco, and our very own Tricia Hamby.

Honor Hike Across America

November 4th

Starting on September 10, 2010, Marine Veteran Lance Robinson is hiking across America to honor the men and women who serve our nation and communities. On November 4, 2013, Mr. Robinson reached central Texas. His visit included a stop at the volunteer firefighters station in West, to honor those who died in the explosion on April 17, 2013. Later that morning, after his walk along I-35, he stopped at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame to present a wreath for the fallen Texas state troopers and Texas Rangers. After the presentation, Mr. Robinson and his followers enjoyed a visit to the museum. He left to continue his walk south to the Alamo. As a token of appreciation, Mr. Robinson was presented with a Texas Ranger lapel pin by Company "F" Rangers Jake Burson and Patrick Peña. Also in attendance for the ceremony were firefighters and police officers from Waco, Texas.

Energizing Texas

John Boessenecker  Chuck Parsons
Donaly Brice          Dr. Louis Ray Sadler
Jan Devereaux        Dr. Paul N. Spellman
Doug Dukes           David S. Turk
Dr. Charles Harris   Robert Utley
Rick Miller          Dr. Harold J. Weiss, Jr.
Stephen L. Moore

More appointments are pending.
History Conference

On November 8th, Education Coordinator Casey Eichhorn traveled to the Old Red Museum in Dallas to participate in the Energizing Texas History Conference. Hosted by the Region 10 Education Service Center, Humanities Texas and the Texas State Historical Association, the conference attracts social studies teachers from across the state.

Casey's presentation focused on the Great Comanche Raid of 1840, the largest Comanche raid on western settlements in the history of Texas. The raid devastated the towns of Victoria and Linnville and ultimately culminated in the Battle of Plum Creek, near present-day Lockhart. The Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center houses several books on the raid, and the museum is presently hosting "The Battle of Plum Creek", a painting by Texas artist Lee Herring.

For more information about upcoming conferences offered by the Texas State Historical Association, please visit tshaonline.org.

Top Photo: Lance Robinson (center in firefighter uniform) surrounded by Waco firefighters, police officers and Texas Rangers. He presents a wreath at the base of "Texas Ranger" statue.

Bottom Photo: Marine Veteran Lance Robinson receives Texas Ranger lapel pin from Company "F" Rangers Jake Burson and Patrick Peña.

The Board and Staff of the museum were honored to welcome Marine Veteran Lance Robinson and participate in the Honor Hike Across America 2013. Please visit honorhikeacrossamerica.com for more information.

A Year in Review

Big Announcements in 2013

This has been an exciting year! Here is a recap of our big announcements in 2013!

In February, we were pleased to welcome two exceptional leaders to our advisory board. Henry "Hank" Whitman of Floresville serves as Chairman. Hank is the recently retired Chief of the Texas Rangers and Deputy Assistant Director of Texas DPS. Ross Darden of Waco serves as Vice-Chair. Ross is the owner of Darden Building Materials, a family-owned Central Texas firm established in 1882.
In May we hosted *Lone Star History Conference II*, the fourth Texas Rangers history conference at the Hall of Fame and Museum. Among the popular topics were sessions on the Frontier Battalion and Special Force, current Texas Ranger operations, qualifications to be a Texas Ranger, the U.S. Marshals and the Texas Rangers, Texas Ranger firearms and the three 1880s Aten brothers who were Texas Rangers.

On June 27th, the Texas Public Safety Commission appointed the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco as their representative and steward for the Bicentennial™ (1823-2023). The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame will serve as a conduit for proposals and requests for Texas DPS to sanction official Bicentennial commemorations. The staff will assist in coordinating and facilitating those activities. The Commission has also endorsed efforts to renovate and expand the exhibits and educational facilities of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame in Waco. Their desire is to leave a Bicentennial legacy by supporting efforts to further preserve the Texas Ranger heritage for future generations.

In October we announced our participation in the Tom Lea Trail. Lea is known for his painting and murals, but is also quite well known for his work as an author and illustrator. He also served as a war correspondent for *Life Magazine* during WWII.

Finally, we were excited to reveal the television series *Real Stories of the Texas Rangers*. Retired Chief Hank Whitman will interview Texas Rangers about different cases they worked. The show also will feature dramatizations of those cases. Retired Chief Whitman is donating his appearance fees to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. We appreciate his generosity and look forward to watching the new series.

**Gift Shop Feature**

**Find Your Perfect Christmas Present**

Remember the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum gift shop and our licensees when purchasing your holiday gifts and decorations. Sales from our licensees and the nonprofit Texas Ranger Museum gift shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum.

Texas Ranger Foods, which produces a line of salsas, quesos and sauces, has created smoked holiday meats and gift boxes that make perfect gifts for party hosts and out-of-state relatives. To order the new products and holiday gift boxes, please [click here](http://example.com).

For commemorative Texas Ranger firearms, please visit [America Remembers](http://example.com). For greeting cards from Grandmas Unplugged, please [click here](http://example.com). For our cowboy hat, please visit [Resistol](http://example.com).
The Museum Gift Shop carries a line of bullet pens and wine stoppers. The big pen is a .50 caliber bullet and is made with a real shell. The other one is a representation of a .30 caliber bullet on the tip. The bullet wine stoppers come topped with either a metal circle star design or a leather badge insert. Each item retails for $37.95.

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. For guaranteed delivery of your Museum Gift Shop Christmas purchases, please order by Wednesday, December 18th. Thank you for your support!

Dear Chamber Members,

We appreciate your support throughout 2013. We are looking forward to an exciting 2014. The Museum turns 50! Stay tuned for some great newsletters to come.

Sincerely,

Board and Staff of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Save $2.00 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: January 31, 2014

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