

## Christine Walker

**From:** Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum [news@texasranger.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 09, 2010 1:40 PM  
**To:** christinew@texasranger.org  
**Subject:** News from Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum



July 2010

Newsletter

### Summer Fun Round Up



#### Saturday, July 31st from 10am to 4pm

Enjoy a fun-filled day with activities including: artifact presentations, coloring contest, old west laser target game, child identification kits, face painting and more. Bring a camera! Activities will entertain elementary school-age children. An adult must accompany children and regular admission prices apply.

*Educational programs at the museum are sponsored in part by the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.*

### In This Issue

Summer Fun Round Up  
 New Texas Ranger Ranks  
 Colt 1911 Tribute  
 Knox Renovation  
 Medal of Valor Presentation

### Quick Links

[Website](#)  
[Museum Store](#)

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### New Rank Structure for the Texas Rangers



Changes to the Texas Ranger ranks mark a new era in their history. Previously the rank of "sergeant" replaced that of "private" for field Rangers. Recently an administrative decision was made to discard "Sergeant" and call field Rangers "Texas Rangers"-as they were for more than a century.

Effective July, 1 2010, former Company Captains now carry the rank of **"Major/Company Commander."** This change brings the command structure of the Texas Rangers into line with that of the Texas Department of Public Safety as a whole. The five current ranks within the Texas Rangers now include Senior Captain/Assistant Director, Department of Public Safety (Chief), Captain, Major, Lieutenant and Ranger.

Historically, the rank of Major was conferred upon Maj. B.C. Walters, a Mounted Ranger commander in 1839, and the legendary Maj. John B Jones, commander of the Frontier Battalion from 1874-1879.

## Colt 1911 Tribute



The Texas Ranger Museum staff works with various companies to license Texas Ranger products. America Remembers designed the newest product, a Texas Ranger Tribute Colt .45 pistol.

More than 150 years ago the Texas Rangers started the tradition of relying on Colt handguns. When Colt released the Model 1911 pistol for the U.S. Army, it was embraced immediately by the Texas Rangers and proved a perfect fit. And for the last century, many

Texas Rangers have depended on this powerful .45 pistol in their continuing war on crime.

Craftsmen commissioned specifically for this project by America Remembers decorate each working Tribute in sparkling 24-karat gold and nickel artwork over a handsome blued steel background. Only 300 Texas Ranger Tribute Pistols will be issued in this strictly limited edition.

To order your Colt 1911 Tribute or to learn more about the pistol, visit [America Remembers](#).

## Knox Renovation

When the citizens of Waco passed a bond issue to renovate Knox Center, the banquet facility at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, a citizens committee was formed. The committee consisted of individuals who utilize Knox Center for various functions and staff from the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame. The committee provided a list of recommendations for the facility to Wallace Group, the architects the committee selected for the project.

Before the renovation began, the 20-year-old facility hosted more than 150 events per year. These events range from proms for area high schools to corporate banquets. The citizens committee wanted to enhance Knox Center by incorporating a view of the Brazos River.

Knox Center has been largely gutted as the photographs show. The bays on the right are for the new panoramic windows. The front has been removed to allow for the remodeling of the front facade. The roof, interior ceilings, floor surface, lighting, kitchen and restrooms will be remodeled or replaced. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame staff will keep you updated as the renovation progresses.



Knox Center entrance in 2007.



Knox Center as of July 6, 2010.

## Medal of Valor Presentation

At the Ranger Reunion this June, we were honored and touched when retired Texas Ranger Danny Rhea of San Angelo quietly presented the museum with his Commissioner's Medal of Valor on extended loan. Four Rangers have been awarded medals of valor since the decoration was created. The citation for Sgt. Rhea reads:

***On January 6, 1998, Ranger Sergeant Danny V. Rhea assisted Trooper Cody Sanders and Trooper George K. Harris in dealing with a man who was carrying what was identified as a bomb at the Sulphur Springs Texas Department of Public Safety office. The man told Trooper Harris to evacuate the building because he was going to blow himself up. The building was evacuated and the officers negotiated with the man for almost an hour believing he was holding an***

***explosive device and intended to detonate the device. The man eventually displayed a handgun and pointed it at Trooper Harris. Ranger Sergeant Rhea then fired one shot, fatally wounding the man.***

***Ranger Sergeant Rhea's courage, decisive action, and dedication to duty in this tense and volatile situation bring great credit to him, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the profession of law enforcement.***

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame has been entrusted with the Medals of all four Rangers. Staff is planning an exhibit honoring the recipients.

Coming Soon...

In August, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) celebrates its 75th Anniversary. We will feature a short history about the Department in our next newsletter.

**Save  
\$2.00**

Save \$1.00 off adult admission for up to two adults. 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 Exit 335B University Parks Drive in Waco, Texas. For more information, call (254) 750-8631 or visit [www.texasranger.org](http://www.texasranger.org).

**Offer Expires: August 31, 2010**

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