



## Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco

May 2011

### Military Appreciation



**The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum**  
Is Honoring Military Service Personnel and Their Families this Memorial Day Weekend  
**May 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>**

Active Duty Personnel, Retirees and Veterans will receive Free Admission to the Museum while Their Family Will Receive Discounted Admissions (with military identification)

Open 9am to 5pm. Located off I-35 Exit 335B  
@ University Parks Drive in Waco  
254-750-8631      www.texasranger.org

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### Major Kirby Dendy



Texas Ranger Major Kirby Dendy, who served as commander of Company "F" for more than 15 years, was promoted to Deputy Assistant Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Rangers Division. His position is that of second in command of the Texas Rangers. The Major also has the distinction of being the longest serving commissioned officer in Texas DPS.

As the commander of Company "F," Major Dendy oversaw major criminal investigations in the Central Texas region, including State involvement in the Fort Hood shooting. Rangers conducted witness interviews and provided investigative assistance, helping ensure that witnesses were interviewed in a timely manner, as federal investigators were still arriving at the scene.

The Board and Staff are grateful to Major Dendy for his assistance and many kindnesses over the years. We wish him the best as he begins his new role within the Texas Rangers division.

### Ranger Jim



The Museum has recently received a generous donation from Mary Pratt-Steele. She is the daughter of James David Pratt who played Ranger Jim, a well-known children's television performer in Texas. Mrs. Pratt-Steele donated a number of her father's scrapbooks containing several photographs, newspaper articles, event programs, thank you notes, and birthday and Christmas cards both from organizations and children all noting Ranger Jim's popularity. Mrs. Pratt-Steele also donated Ranger Jim's iconic western costume including his Quality Check endorsed cowboy boots and his raw hide fringe jacket.

In the 1950s James Pratt was known to thousands of Texas children as Ranger Jim. The character of Ranger Jim first came about through a small radio program and at its height was a daily half-hour television program. Ranger Jim was featured on stations KVDO-TV in Corpus Christi and Rio Grande Valley, KGBT-TV in Harlingen and KFJZ-TV in Fort Worth. Every day children could see Ranger Jim dressed in a ten-gallon hat and cowboy boots with a pair of six shooters at his side.

The Ranger Jim Club, sponsored by Hygeia Milk Products Company, had strict guidelines. In order to become one of Ranger Jim's Junior Rangers a member must "brush their teeth, pick up their clothes and toys each day, and clean their plates." The biggest reward for a Junior Ranger was to stand beside Ranger Jim as he strummed his guitar and sang a few bars all while the cameras were rolling.

Ranger Jim's popularity earned him an honorary Deputy Sheriff position in Cameron County and allowed him to teach children about gun safety through the Texas Highway Patrol. Ranger Jim also spent time raising money for the March of Dimes campaign against polio, visiting Texas children's hospitals, and teaching children about proper hygiene.

James Pratt truly loved entertaining children as Ranger Jim. In a Kingsville, Texas newspaper article James Pratt was quoted as saying; "I've never had so much fun in my life. I thoroughly enjoy working with kids and feel that my job is rewarding because I'm teaching them the fundamentals of good health and good citizenship."

After his career as Ranger Jim, Pratt became a news reporter and later received his Doctorate in Journalism from the University of Texas. Pratt also received a Fulbright Scholarship to attend Columbia University and afterwards taught at West Texas State University, University of Mississippi, and University of Monrovia in Monrovia, Liberia in Africa where is set up several television and radio stations.



### Knox Center Deck



A patio deck was installed outside Knox Center uniting the climate controlled 6,000 square foot interior with the surrounding park and Waco's Riverwalk.

With the view of the Brazos River, the deck is an ideal way to serve guests cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The deck measures 12 feet wide by 42 feet long.

For more information on renting the banquet hall, [click here](#).

### Civil War Summer Camp



The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and Historic Waco Foundation are partnering for a weeklong summer camp to explore Civil War history. Learn what soldiers on both sides of the battlefield wore, ate, and did while in camp. Curious about camels during the Civil War? Ready to learn about Robert Smalls and his ship the *Planter*? Discover how soldiers sent secret messages

and signals, make a drum, and practice your aim. You'll even get to see live camels with the Texas Camel Corps! Think you can "pass muster?" Let's find out, but hurry because only 30 spots are available!

**Date & Time:**

Camp-June 20-24, 9-11 am

Soldier Social- June 24, 11-1 Join campers for fun activities for the whole family

**Age & Cost:** Ages 8-11, \$55 per child (limited number of scholarships are available)

**Place:** Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum & Historic Waco Foundation

**Register By:** June 10, 2011

**Call:** 753-5166

**Email:** [hwfedu@hot.rr.com](mailto:hwfedu@hot.rr.com)

## Store Feature

Just in time for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> are our new Texas themed candles.

Star Glass Candle

\$15.00

Scents are available in Pecan Pie, Bluebonnet, Leather and Lace, and Home.

Square Candle with Charm

\$12.92

Scents are available in Home and Pecan Pie.

The museum store is open 9:00 am to 4:30 pm daily. Call (254) 750-8631 or [email the store](#) to order your candle today. We ship world-wide.

*Sales from the nonprofit Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum gift shop benefit the educational programs at the Museum.*



## Save

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

**\$2.00**

off Interstate 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 1, 2011

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