

**From:** Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum <news@texasranger.org>

**To:** christinew@texasranger.org

**Cc:**

**Date:** Thursday, November 01, 2012 12:34 pm

**Subject:** News from the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

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**Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter**  
Sponsored by the City of Waco

November 2012

**Featured Articles**

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**Military Appreciation Day**

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is hosting Military Appreciation Day on Veteran's Day, Sunday, November 11th.

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, and photographs are accepted).



**Big Texas Christmas Present**

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum, Friends for Life, along with Big 95 KBGO and Mi Familia Car Club, have teamed up for the "Big Texas Christmas Present" to benefit Gifts for Grannies.

Gifts for Grannies provides items to the elderly and people with disabilities who have no one to remember them during the holiday season. The Museum staff needs your support to reach a goal of providing unwrapped, new gifts to 4,000 elderly Central Texas citizens.

Donations will be accepted at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum on Saturday, December 8th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Anyone making a donation to Gifts for Grannies will receive free admission to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame - one admission per item.

Mi Familia Car Club will feature a car show and Big 95 will broadcast live from the museum from 1:00 to 3:00 pm to promote this event.

Many items are available in the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and





**Save the Dates**

Sunday, Nov 11th -  
Military Appreciation Day

Thursday, Nov 22nd -  
Thanksgiving (Museum  
closed)

Saturday, Dec 8th - Big  
Texas Christmas  
Present

Tuesday, Dec 25th -  
Christmas (Museum  
closed)



**2013 Board Members**

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame welcomes the following new members to its Board:

Ross Darden, Darden Building Materials

Chief Kirby Dendy, Texas Rangers

Malcolm Duncan, Mayor, City of Waco

Cynthia Leon, Chair, Texas Public Safety Commission

Abel Reyna, District Attorney, McLennan County

Alfred Solano, President, CenTex Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Museum gift shop and can be purchased that day.

After Thanksgiving, a donation box will be located in the lobby of the Museum for those who want to donate early and cannot attend on December 8th. Those who donate early will receive discounted admission.



Visit [Friends for Life](#) for a list of items needed by Gifts for Grannies.

**End of an Icon**

In early November, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will dismantle the well-known Texas Ranger Museum sign to make room for I-35 frontage road expansion. The sign was constructed in 1992, and has become the backdrop for visitors taking pictures at the Museum. The sign was in the new access road right-of-way, but the flagpole will remain.



The sign and flag pole were partially funded through a grant from the Cooper Foundation of Waco. Staff has requested that TxDOT recover the large stainless-steel Texas Ranger badge for re-use.

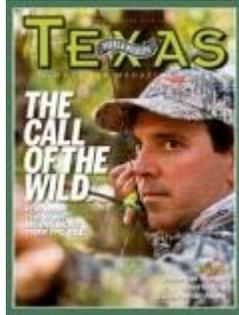
Modifications to I-35 are due to be completed in 2014 and the familiar University Parks exit to the museum, downtown and Baylor will be eliminated. Visitors to the museum and downtown Waco will exit at Martin Luther King Blvd to the north, or eventually 8th Street coming from the south. The museum will not be visible from those exits, so the museum Board and City of Waco are working with TxDOT to secure brown historic site signs before the exits. A taller, vertical sign is under planning to increase visibility from I-35. During this construction period, please let friends and visitors know that the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame remains open on its regular schedule. For information please call (254

David Sterling, VP,  
Extraco Banks

Thomas Swann,  
Attorney, Naman,  
Howell, Smith and Lee

Hank Whitman, Former  
Chief, Texas Rangers

750-8631.



**TWP Article**

The Museum and City of Waco are featured in the November issue of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine. To read the article by Mike Cox, [click here](#).



**97.5 FM Interview**

The Museum and our upcoming Military Appreciation Day event were featured in an interview with John "The Lama" Oakes on October 28th. We appreciate the promotion of Military Appreciation Day and support from our friends at 97.5 FM in Waco.

**Artifact Spotlight**

The Blackwell Family, represented by Mr. Jan Blackwell of Tennessee, recently placed on loan the family's cased pair of Colt 1862 Pocket Navy .36 caliber revolvers. They belonged to Ranger Charles Jourdan Blackwell (b. 1865, d. 1935) who served as a regular Ranger, a Special and a Railroad Ranger.

The compact five-shot cap-and-ball pistols, decorated with hand-carved ivory grips, are accompanied by their original factory-made case, bullet mold, percussion caps and tools. Only 19,000 were made from 1861 to about 1873, a small run in comparison to other Colt models. They were popular from the Civil War into the 20th century as "backup" revolvers.



**A Special Thanks!**

Ranger Blackwell entered the Rangers late in life in July, 1915 at 49 and served on-and-off until he retired at 69 in January 1935, passing away in October of that year. Two sons, Clell Miller Blackwell and Samuel Clay Blackwell, also served as Rangers. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame appreciates the generosity of the Blackwell family for sharing their family history and this fascinating artifact.

A special thank you to the Lavaca County Historical Commission in Hallettsville for allowing the Museum staff to attend the 16th Annual Alton C. Allen Historical Conference.

A special thank you to the Wild West Festival organizers and Texas Top Guns for allowing the Museum staff to attend and sell merchandise at the event in Grapeland.

We appreciate your help in promoting the Museum to a new audience and look forward to working together in the future.



**Quick Links**

- Website
- Gift Shop
- Education Programs
- Education Center
- Knox Center
- Museum Video



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**TRAF Scholarships**

The Texas Ranger Association Foundation (TRAF), headquartered in Waco, was established in 1981. Its goals are to assist retired and active Texas Rangers and their families, and to support the historical and preservation programs of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame. TRAF and the museum work together on a wide variety of educational projects.

One of the most rewarding and important programs, led for many years by TRAF Director Constance White, is the granting of annual college scholarships to the children of active-duty Texas Rangers. In 1989, TRAF awarded seven deserving scholars grants of \$500 a year to attend the college or university of their choice. Today, qualified full-time students receive \$4,000 per academic year-or up to \$16,000 in support of a four-year degree. Currently 34 recipients are enrolled in colleges or universities and \$136,000 in academic support has been allocated by TRAF. Following in the footsteps of their Texas Ranger parents, many recipients have pursued public service careers in law enforcement, medicine, teaching, government and the military.

Funds for the program are raised from private and corporate sources by TRAF members and Texas Rangers. The scholarship program is a major focus of the Texas Ranger Reunion held in Waco each June. "With rising tuition costs, fundraising efforts have become increasingly important, and we continue to meet the challenge. These scholarships are a way to say 'thank you' to our Texas Rangers for all they do each day to keep Texans safe," said Constance White, TRAF Scholarship Chairman. "The Texas Ranger Association appreciates the promotion and assistance the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum lends to this educational program."



Morgan Bennie, daughter of Major Tony Bennie - commanding Co. C, is a junior at Texas State University, majoring in Sociology. "I want you all to know that the hard work you guys put into TRAF does not go unnoticed. I will strive to achieve great things because this foundation has given me the funds and capability to do so."



Kelsey Kemp, daughter of Ranger Philip Kemp - Co. E, is a freshman at West Texas A&M, in Pre-Veterinarian studies. "There are not enough words to thank you for the opportunity you have given me by awarding me this scholarship!"

For further information please contact the Texas Ranger Association Foundation at

(254) 752-1001.

### Gift Shop Feature

Remember the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum gift shop when purchasing your holiday decorations and gifts.

This 3 ¼" royal blue and white velvet glass ornament has the Texas Ranger badge in glitter snow. \$13.95

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



**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](http://www.texasranger.org).

**Offer Expires: December 31, 2012**

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Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum | 100 Texas Ranger Trail | Waco | TX | 76706

**Attachments:**