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

January 2014

**FEATURE ARTICLES**

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Celebrates 50 Years of its Founding

Captain Ira Long

Aquilla ISD Career Day

New Canine Teams Join DPS Crime Fighting Efforts

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**Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum Celebrates 50 Years of its Founding**



In 1964 the Texas Public Safety Commission formally designated the City of Waco as steward of the official historical center of the Texas Rangers. It is the oldest law enforcement heritage center in the United States.

The museum began as the Col. Homer Garrison Museum, which now safeguards and exhibits a growing collection of approximately 20,000 artifacts artworks donated and loaned by citizens and Texas Rangers.

Over the past 50 years, 4 million persons have visited the museum from all states and many nations. The famous have included Presidents, Heads of State, Governors and celebrities. But our most important guests are school children who learn about the traditions and heritage of the Texas Rangers.

We are looking forward to another amazing 50 years in Waco! As we like to say, "If you haven't seen us in the past five years, you haven't seen us." Come visit us today!

**IN THE NEWS**



Please [click here](#) to read "Brazos Past: Texas Rangers roamed before Lone Star State was born" article by Terri Jo Ryan of the *Waco Tribune Herald*.

**Captain Ira Long**

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum recently received on loan, artifacts from the family of Captain Ira Long. Mrs. Anne Long-Phillips, the great-Granddaughter of Captain Long, has generously loaned Captain Long's Mason ring, pocket watch and a framed portrait. The Collections Department plans to have his artifacts on exhibit in early January.



**WITH THIS RING**



On Sunday, January 26th, the Museum will attend the *With This Ring Bridal Extravaganza* at the Waco Convention Center. Presented by Action Rental Center, the expo will be open from 12pm to 5pm.

John Knox Memorial Center, the banquet hall at the museum, is one of the most utilized facilities for weddings in Central Texas.

In honor of the 25th Anniversary, *With This Ring* will feature celebrity wedding planner and world renowned dress designer David Tutera!

For more information, please [click here](#) and visit our booth!

BIG TEXAS CHRISTMAS  
PRESENT



On December 7th, we hosted the fourth annual Big Texas Christmas Present to benefit Gifts for Grannies. Here is a thank you note we received.

*Thank you for helping with Gifts for Grannies and Grandpas too! With your help we were able to provide Christmas gifts to over 1,600*

As the one-time Lieutenant of Frontier Battalion, Company B, Long received a commendation from Major Frank B. Jones of Frontier Battalion, Company G, for his leadership and courage in the battle of Lost Valley on May 8, 1875. Lt. Long and ten men from Company B, five men from Company A and four from Company D joined Major Jones in pursuit of a band of Indian raiders who had stolen horses from a ranch near Lost Valley in Jack County, Texas.



Excerpt from Major John B. Jones' letter to General William Steele, Adjutant General, dated May 9th, 1875:

*We followed the trail at a brisk gallop in a south easterly direction three or four miles, when we overtook a party of seven Indians. Lieut. Long killed one at the first fire. Then they took to flight and a running fight ensued for five or six miles in the woods and over rough and rocky hills and hollows, during which they changed their course and performed almost a complete circle, so that the fight ended with a mile of where we first struck their trail. We killed five; the other two evaded us in the woods and made their escape into the mountains....*

*All the men acted throughout the fight with great courage, coolness and discipline, and I must record it to their credit that they did not stop to scalp and plunder the Indians that were killed, as is too often done in such fights, but continued the rout until the last Indian in sight was killed.*

*I cannot say more than he deserves in commendation of the conduct of Lt. Ira Long during the whole day. His courage and coolness was admirable, and while doing great execution personally, he did not fail to encourage and cheer on the men....*

### **Aquilla ISD Career Day**

On November 26th, Aquilla Independent School District held its annual Career Day. The purpose of Career Day is to introduce students to the wide variety of career opportunities in their community. The goal is to connect the subjects students are learning in school to the various occupations that are available in the world of work.

*elderly and people with disabilities this year. Everything you do makes a difference! Merry Christmas from Friends For Life Staff and Clients!*

To learn more about Gifts for Grannies, please [click here](#).

Two well-known individuals associated with the Museum volunteer their time to speak with the students of Aquilla. Texas Ranger Patrick Peña represented the Texas Department of Public Safety. Bob Alexander, retired Federal Agent and Author, not only shared about his experience associated with law enforcement but was able to touch on his current career as a noted author on the history of the Texas Rangers. Both volunteers spoke to junior high and high school students about preparing themselves now for their future careers.

Mika Coffey, Financial Analyst, organized the Museum's participation in the event. Her husband, Keith Coffey, is a Junior High science teacher at Aquilla ISD.

EDUCATION CENTER



The following groups utilized the Education Center for programs during the month of December:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Altrusa International
- Midway ISD Child Nutrition
- Waco Knight Riders
- CenTex African American Chamber of Commerce



Texas Ranger Patrick Peña

WELCOME 102 TROOPERS



On December 20th, the Texas Department of Public Safety commissioned 102 men and women as Highway Patrol troopers during the recruit graduation ceremony.

For more information, please [click here](#).

WELCOME MR. MACH



The Board of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame welcomes Steven Mach of Houston to the Public Safety Commission.

Gov. Rick Perry appointed Mr. Mach for a term to expire Dec. 31, 2015. The commission formulates and oversees policies for the Texas Department of Public Safety.

To read his biography, please [click here](#).

HORSESHOES



**Superstition:** A horseshoe above your door with the open end pointing up brings good fortune.

**Where it came from:** Some say this practice has Christian roots that can be traced back to a story in which the devil promised never to enter a house with a horseshoe over the door. Some also believed that the horseshoe's U-shape would catch and hold good luck for the people inside the home. Hanging the horseshoe upside down; however, would empty out any luck stored there.



Author Bob Alexander

### New Canine Teams Join DPS Crime Fighting Efforts

On December 6th, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) graduated five troopers and canines from an eight-week training program. These canine teams will join 39 other DPS teams stationed throughout Texas, including six explosives-detection teams stationed in Austin.



"The DPS canine program has been integral in removing [large] quantities of drugs off Texas streets and detecting criminal activity," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "The skills these newly trained troopers

Source: HGTV Magazine

and dogs possess make them a force multiplier in protecting Texans and helping keep drugs out of our communities."

QUICK LINKS

- [Website](#)
- [Gift Shop](#)
- [Knox Center](#)
- [Education Center](#)
- [Education Programs](#)
- [Research Center](#)
- [Museum Video](#)
- [Texas Ranger Bicentennial](#)



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The dogs for the program were acquired from private individuals, shelters, rescue groups and the Department of Defense. This canine graduation class includes two Labrador Retrievers, two Belgian Malinois and one Portuguese Water Dog, and they will all be used for drug detection. (A Labrador/Border Collie mix also graduated, and will be assigned to an existing handler.)

In 2012, DPS canine teams assisted in the seizure of approximately 22,000 pounds of marijuana, 535 pounds of cocaine, 69 pounds of heroin, 198 pounds of methamphetamine, 26 pounds of other drugs and \$11.2 million in cash.

January 2014

January is National Stalking Awareness Month and Texas Crime Stoppers Awareness Month.



"January 2014 marks the 10th anniversary of the first National Stalking Awareness Month. In the past ten years, we have witnessed increased awareness of stalking. Yet, the fact that 6.6 million adults are stalked in the United States in one year demonstrates that we still have so much more to do." To learn more about stalking, please [click here](#).

Texas CRIME STAR STOPPERS

In 2012, Governor Rick Perry declared January as Texas Crime Stoppers Awareness Month. "Crime Stoppers has been particularly effective in Texas, where anonymous tips have led to 175,000 arrests and \$1.2 billion in property recovered and narcotics seized since its inception." To read the proclamation, please [click here](#).

"Texas Crime Stoppers is both a state program and a fraternity of local programs established to allow concerned citizens to give anonymous, statutorily protected information on unsolved crimes and the location of fugitives, therefore becoming eligible for cash rewards." To find a Crime Stoppers organization near you, please [click here](#).

The Texas Department of Public Safety periodically publishes news articles, including a list of the most wanted fugitives in Texas. To read the articles, please [click here](#).

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: February 28, 2014

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