Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter
Sponsored by the City of Waco
Official State Historical Center of the Texas Rangers
Home of Texas Ranger Bicentennial 1823-2023

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum
Is Honoring Military Service Personnel and Their Families this Memorial Day Weekend
May 25th - 27th
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

Home on the Range!

May 2019
On Saturday, June 8th, pack up your family and time travel with the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame. The first stop on your adventure is the Texas frontier in the 1870s. What did the early Rangers cook and eat in the field? How did Ranger clothes and gear help them get the job done? The Texas Top Guns will demonstrate skills Rangers needed to survive on the frontier and as early law enforcement officers.

Then, flash forward two centuries to the life of today’s Texas Rangers at a Texas Ranger Talk! At 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM a currently serving Texas Ranger will discuss their training and responsibilities, law enforcement in the 21st century, and answer your questions. This is a rare opportunity to meet Rangers from two centuries and make priceless memories.

For more information about Home on the Range and to stay updated as things are announced, visit our Facebook event page.

Texas Ranger Talks

Here is your opportunity to meet an active or retired Texas Ranger, learn about their remarkable service and leave with a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Modeled on the popular Astronaut Encounter at the Kennedy Space Center, the museum will host a series of informal Texas Ranger Talks on select Saturdays throughout the summer. Each presentation will last approximately 30 minutes followed by 15 minutes for Q&A. Presentations are included with regular admission to the museum.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page! Dates will be announced soon!
New Discovering the Legend Episode Up!

Discovering the Legend is series of nearly 30 programs about Texas Ranger history, artifacts and art, and modern Ranger duties. It is produced in cooperation with the Texas Rangers, City of Waco, historians, and donors.

This episode features an interview with Texas Ranger Lieutenant James Thomas of Company “F” in Waco. He discusses why he became a Texas Ranger and the challenges and rewards of the profession during his remarkable career.

You can watch the interview here.

If you enjoyed this presentation, you can hear from other Rangers at our upcoming Texas Ranger Talks! this summer.

Education Presentation in Killeen

In April, Education Programs Manager Audrey spoke with 3rd grade students from Killeen, Texas about Texas Ranger History. Each year our staff assists teachers and students statewide through presentations, lesson plans and research.

To give students an up close look at Ranger history, Audrey brings different objects from the TRHFM Education Collection. The Education Collection includes examples of historic artifacts in the
museum that the students can look at up close.

To the left is a life-size picture of retired Texas Ranger and TRHFM board member Sgt. Matt Cawthon showing the regulation dress used in day-to-day duties. Audrey is holding a compass that rested on a wooden tripod and was used by Rangers working as surveyors in the late 1800s.

For more information about educational resources, please visit our website or contact Audrey, Educational Programs Manager, at 254-750-8631.

Donald Yena Watercolor Painting Donation

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum recently received a generous gift, from the Collection of Dr. J.F. Cadenhead, of a watercolor entitled Timid Browsers by famed western artist Donald Yena. At the age of three Yena came to the Lone Star State with his family and lived on a farm near Castroville, southwest of San Antonio. A passion for times gone by was inevitable, for Yena was surrounded by Texas historic sites and landmarks in his youth. This passion for Texas and the Old West is reflected both in his paintings and in his private collection of antique artifacts.
Yena’s decision to become an artist started early after graduating from San Antonio’s Vocational and Technical High School in 1953. He continued his art education at Hunter School of Commercial Art and through a correspondence course from the Famous Artist’s School, where he received a Certificate of Completion in 1962.

Mastering both oils and watercolors, Yena’s works are prominently exhibited in private homes, businesses, galleries and numerous museums. In an interview for Texas Parks and Wildlife, Yena states; “I paint ‘once upon a time in the West’ with authenticity,” and his expressive works convey that truth.

New Bicentennial Ranger History Book


During the Prohibition years Texas was awash in booze and oil. The storied Texas Rangers found themselves not only suppressing gambling and bootleggers, but also responsible for everything from catching murderers to preventing circus performances on Sundays.

Utilizing newly discovered sources, Texas Rangers in Transition is the first detailed history of this era of political turmoil, when the largely rural state was rapidly becoming urban and the nation went from Roaring Twenties boom to Depression bust. Law enforcement faced an epidemic of bank robberies, organized crime, the growth of the Ku Klux Klan, and motorized bandits using military-grade weapons. Steeped in tradition and reluctant to change, the Texas Rangers had appropriations slashed by an antagonistic governor and suffered from mediocre political appointments to their ranks.

Rather than fade into history, the Rangers transitioned from frontier law enforcers to criminal investigators. In 1935, the Texas Rangers were moved from the governor’s personal control to the newly created Department of Public Safety. This was a watershed point in the Rangers’ history: marking their transformation into a modern law enforcement agency.

Available by mail from the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame museum store and quality booksellers.

New Baseball Caps in the Museum Store!

Summer sun is shining already in Texas and that means it's baseball cap weather! The Museum Shop has a wide assortment of caps. Please call or email to inquire about the various designs. $21.95 + Tax
Leica Scanner Helping to Rebuild Notre Dame Cathedral

In November, Leica Geosystems donated a ScanStation C10 Laser Scanner for the Museum collections. It creates a permanent 360° digital photographic image and maps millions of laser data points to millimeter accuracy. In 2011 the Texas Rangers began applying state-of-the-art land surveying technology to criminal investigations, which enables a single Ranger to make a precision 3D map of a crime scene in minutes. Before, a forensics team spent hours or days doing the same work with cameras and tape measures.

Now that very same Leica scanner model is being used in the reconstruction of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France. The 850-year-old landmark burned on April 15th. The French government pledged to reconstruct the building within five years. “Having laser scans [of Notre Dame] is critical in shortening the reconstruction time frame,” says John Russo, president and CEO of Architectural Resource Consultants and president of the U.S. Institute of Building Documentation. “If you don’t have that data, where do you go? Laser scans have become a critical way to help document — and potentially save — history.”
To read more about the process in the article "Laser Scan Data Integral to Fast-Track Rebuild of Notre Dame Cathedral ", please click here.

**Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ Partners Program**

The Texas Rangers are a Texas Legend and an American Heritage™. They will commemorate their landmark 200th anniversary in 2023.

We are seeking $100.00 individual and family contributors to help safeguard this Texas and American Heritage™ for future generations. With a $100 contribution, you will receive:

1. A limited-edition enameled bronze pin featuring the official Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ seal
2. A certificate signed by an active or distinguished retired Texas Ranger
3. Your name or family name on the online roster of Bicentennial Partners™
4. A one-time-use family admission ticket (admits 4) to the Museum.

$90 of the contribution qualifies as a charitable contribution for Federal Income Tax purposes. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is a 170(c) government-owned nonprofit.

Please click here to learn more about the program.
Education Center
The following groups utilized the Education Center for programs in April:

- Texas Rangers
- Texas DPS Criminal Investigation Division
- Texas DPS Highway Patrol
- Baylor School of Education
- Reserve Officers Association
- Texas Kidsafe Child Passenger Safety Program, Baylor Scott & White Health

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ENJOY
$2.00 OFF
Expires 6/30/2019

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.

Newsletter Compiled by Audrey Ladd, Education Programs Manager

Confirm that you like this.
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