



Official State Historical Center of the Texas  
Rangers law enforcement agency.

**The Following Article was Originally Published in the  
*Texas Ranger Dispatch Magazine***

The *Texas Ranger Dispatch* was published by the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum from 2000 to 2011. It has been superseded by this online archive of Texas Ranger history.

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Funded in part by grants from  
the Texas Ranger Association Foundation

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# Sic 'Em!

by Robert Nieman

Ever since Stephen F. Austin formed the Texas Rangers in 1823, they have found themselves in just about every situation imaginable. One such incident was encountered by Ranger Al Cuellar.

Mark White served as the governor of Texas from 1983 to 1987. Very few, if any, governor has appreciated and loved the Rangers as did Governor White. He was escorted by Rangers, preferring them over a security detail.

Governor White was in San Antonio to attend an official function a short time after being elected, and Ranger Al Cuellar was assigned to drive him to his meeting. En route, Cuellar stopped at a traffic light in an unsavory part of the city. (Unless it is an emergency, Rangers do not run red lights, even when they are driving the governor.) Ranger Bob Steele was following in a separate vehicle, but he had become momentarily separated.

Sitting at the stoplight, Cuellar glanced across the street and saw two males whipping up on a third man. Cuellar was a highly specialized lawman, but a lawman just the same. As such, it was his job to stop such an overt act of violence. However, it was also his job to protect the governor of the state of Texas at all costs. Ranger Cuellar was definitely in a quandary—or so he reasoned.

Cuellar looked over at the governor. Mark White quickly uttered two words that have taken on legendary status in Ranger lore—"Sic 'em!"

Cuellar jumped from the car and charged the fighters. Quickly putting one of the combatants on the ground, he turned to the other man and swiftly overpowered him, too. When he turned to check on the first man, he was in for a shock. There stood the governor of the great and sovereign state of Texas with his foot firmly planted on the neck of the first combatant!

To the immense relief of Cuellar, Ranger Steele soon arrived and took possession of the fighters. Cuellar continued on his way and delivered the governor to his meeting with time to spare.

As hard as it is to comprehend today, there was a time before cell phones. Ranger Cuellar was unable to contact his captain, Jack Dean, until after he dropped off the governor. When he did call, Captain Dean almost wished he hadn't because he could almost feel a few more gray hairs appearing in his head. All he could think to say was, "With the governor!" He also added "a few words I probably should not have." But everything worked out well.



**Governor Mark White**



At the 2006 Texas Ranger Reunion at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, former Governor White was the keystone speaker. Captain Dean introduced him, and he included the "Sic 'Em" story in his remarks. No one laughed harder than Mark White.