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August 2018

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

Attendance Maintaining Record Levels

2017 was our best year on record with 93,444 visitors nationwide and from overseas. So far 2018 is keeping pace with 53,189 persons visiting—8% ahead of last year.

Visitors provide the revenues crucial to supporting our educational and preservation programs. Thanks to you, admissions in June were up 23% and store sales 13% over last year. Hats off to our Visitor Services and Maintenance & Banquet staff who strive to make every visitor feel welcome!



Texas Ranger Joel Timms of Company "E" (Brady) speaks with students and faculty from Zephyr I.S.D.

Donation of Current Texas Ranger Badges

The first known Texas Ranger badges were worn by members of Capt. Leander McNelly's Washington County Volunteers in the 1870s. "Official" badges were not issued by the State of Texas until 1935 when the Texas Department of

Public Safety was formed. Today the Ranger "circle star badge" is the most famous in the world—and regrettably the most counterfeited (please [read our "Beware Fake Badges" page](#)).

The museum collection serves as the official State collection. It begins even before badges existed with 1830s paper commissions. Some of the badges were worn on horseback by frontiersmen; three orbited the earth in 2002 on Space Shuttle Mission STS-111. Here are some of the historic badges:



The Texas Rangers/Texas DPS have authorized the addition of current badges to the collection for their 200th anniversary. They are tightly controlled as befits a state symbol and are produced only by specific warrant from the Texas Rangers.

After we called for sponsors to bring the collection up to date, Kevin Johnson, of Johnson Bits & Spurs, graciously offered to donate examples of the eight current ranks: **Texas Ranger , Lieutenant , Staff Lieutenant , Captain , Staff Captain , Major , Assistant Chief , and Chief .**

It is especially meaningful in that Kevin is one of just two artisans authorized to make the badges for the Texas Rangers. By tradition, they are made from Mexican silver five-peso, gold-plated and gold 50-peso coins.

The badges Mr. Johnson is crafting and donating are made from the silver five-peso coins. Higher ranks of Captain, Staff Captain, Major, Assistant Chief and Chief will be gold-plated. We are deeply grateful for this gift and the estimated two weeks of hand work it will take to complete them.

Please [click here to watch a video](#) segment from *Texas Country Reporter* on the making of spurs and Texas Ranger special requests by Mr. Johnson.



Left to Right: Kevin Johnson with Texas Ranger Alvin Schmidt. Photograph courtesy Mr. Johnson.

Before gold prices skyrocketed, higher ranks wore badges made from 50-peso Mexican gold coins. The five senior Ranger ranks now receive badges made from gold-plated silver coins. Many Rangers still privately purchase gold 50-peso coins or receive them as gifts for their badges to maintain the tradition.

We hope to obtain examples made from gold coins. Donors are sought to cover the cost of the six coins – five to be made into badges and an example of the coin for display. Kevin has generously agreed to make them if the coins are provided.

If you would like to contribute towards this with credit to your family or company, please contact Byron Johnson, Director, at 254-750-8631 or by email at info@texasranger.org for details.

Book Donation from Jan Devereaux and Bob Alexander

Another donation of Texas and Western history books has arrived at the Armstrong Research Center. Over the past five years, Jan Devereaux and Bob Alexander have donated several hundred volumes on Plains Indians, the U.S. Army of the West, border issues, Texas and the outlaw and lawman history of the greater Southwest. Their generosity has helped to strengthen the core collections of the Armstrong Research Center. Ms. Devereaux's and Mr. Alexander's continued support is greatly appreciated.



Museum Receives a Facelift

In July, the Museum was power washed and painted. A special hydraulic lift was used to reach the tallest points on the building. Our thanks to the City of Waco Facilities Department and contractor Ramm Painting Service.



Change in Command

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) has announced the promotions of multiple Texas Rangers effective September 1, 2018.



Randall Prince is has become the Deputy Director of Law Enforcement Operations for Texas DPS. He will replace Deputy Director/Colonel David Baker, who is retiring August 31, 2018. Prince currently serves as the Division Director and Chief of the Texas Rangers Division, a position he held since October of 2014. Prince previously served as the Regional Director for DPS Region 5 in Lubbock, which encompasses Panhandle and West Texas area counties. Prior to that, he served as the Texas Ranger Company Commander in Lubbock. His career encompasses assignments in the Texas Highway

Patrol, Criminal Law Enforcement Division and the Texas Rangers Division serving throughout the state. Along with more than 29 years of law enforcement experience, Prince also holds a Master Peace Officer Certificate; is a graduate of the FBI National Academy; and a graduate of the Governor's Executive Development Program (Class XXXII). Prince is a graduate of Texas State University in criminal justice.



Freeman Martin has been promoted to Deputy Director of Homeland Security and Chief of Staff. Martin will replace Chief of Staff/Deputy Director Robert J. "Duke" Bodisch, who is retiring August 31, 2018. Martin is the current Regional Director for DPS Region 6 in San Antonio. He began his career with DPS in 1990 as a Highway Patrolman in Winnie, Texas. He transferred to Lubbock in 1995, later promoting to Corporal. In April 1999, Martin promoted to Sergeant in the Narcotics Service and was stationed in Houston. In March 2002, he promoted to Texas Ranger Sergeant and remained in

Houston. In January 2008, he promoted to Texas Ranger Lieutenant in Austin, and Inspector within the Audit and Inspection Office in 2009. In May 2009, he promoted to Texas Ranger Captain in Houston, where he later promoted to Texas Ranger Major. In September of 2014, Martin was promoted to Regional Director of DPS Region 6. He is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, and has received numerous awards and commendations during his tenure with DPS.



Chance Collins is being promoted to Division Director and Chief of the Texas Rangers Division. Chance Collins currently serves as the Regional Director for DPS Region 7 - Capitol Region in Austin. Prior to that, he served as the Assistant Division Director for the Texas Rangers. Collins began his career with DPS in 1993, and his previous assignments include Commander of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team; Texas Ranger Reconnaissance Team; Texas Ranger Major of Company "F" in Waco; and Texas Ranger in San Antonio, Harlingen and Houston. Prior to his 15 years with the Texas Ranger

Division, Collins held positions as a special agent on the Governor's Protective Detail, and Texas Highway Patrol trooper in Perryton, Austin and Georgetown. He is a former member of the Ranger Officer Involved Shooting Committee, Crime Scene Investigation Committee, and the Unsolved Crimes Investigation Program. Collins has a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayland Baptist University; graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy - Session 256; the DPS Command College - Cohort 6; and the National Forensic Academy at the University of Tennessee.



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- [Gift Shop](#)
- [Knox Center](#)
- [Education Center](#)
- [Education Programs](#)
- [Research Center](#)
- [Active Texas Rangers](#)
- [Distinguished Service](#)
- [Museum Video](#)
- [Texas Ranger Bicentennial](#)
- [Bicentennial Video](#)
- [Texas Ranger Association Foundation](#)
- [Facebook](#)

Education Center

The following groups utilized the Education Center for programs in July:

- Texas Rangers
- Texas DPS Criminal Investigations Division
- HCCAA Head Start
- Baylor School of Education
- NAACP

ENJOY

\$2.00 OFF

Expires 09/30/2018

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 Christine Rothenbush, Marketing & Development Specialist

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