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December 2022

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

A Two-Part Exhibit Featured in Taub Hall: “Women in the Texas Department of Public Safety” and “Steadfast Trailblazers: Women in the Texas Rangers”

“Women in Texas Department of Public Safety”

After several months of research and development, the Collections Department has completed the installation of two new exhibits featured in the Museum’s Taub Hall Gallery. “Women in the Texas Department of Public Safety” tells the story of the “Petticoat” Rangers who were appointed during Governor James Allred’s crackdown on illegal

gambling in the 1930s. The exhibit also includes the story of the first two women to join the Texas Highway Patrol. Linda Lane from Houston, Texas and Judith "Judie" Prince from Odessa, Texas were the first two women to graduate from the Texas Department of Public Safety's school for Highway Patrol. They were among eighty-two cadets who completed the 18-week program, graduating on October 26, 1973.



"Women in the Texas Department of Public Safety" is on exhibit in Taub Hall.

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is incredibly grateful for the generosity of Jeff Sandlin, in loaning his mother Doris Wheeler's artifacts for the exhibit, and to Judie Prince for her help in making "Women in the Texas Department of Public Safety" a reality.



Left: Donor Jan Devereaux who donated the female mannequin for the Women in Rangers part of the exhibit.

Right: Judie Prince who loaned her items as one of the first two women graduates of Texas DPS Highway Patrol. Prince visited the museum on November 9th to view the "Women in DPS" exhibit.

“Steadfast Trailblazers: Women in the Texas Rangers”

“Steadfast Trailblazers: Women in the Texas Rangers” highlights the careers of the four women currently serving in the Texas Rangers. Although women first joined the ranks of the Texas Rangers in 1993 under Governor Ann Richards, only three women have served in the Rangers prior to the current four.

Captain Melba Saenz, Captain Wende Wakeman, and Ranger Laura Simmons all promoted to Texas Ranger in 2008. Ranger Veronica Gideon joined their ranks in 2016. Each of these women came to law enforcement in their own way, have devoted thousands of hours to specialized training, and have worked through the ranks of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Their continued professionalism and leadership will further pave the path for those who will undoubtedly follow in their footsteps.



Left: Collections Assistant Eric Richard and volunteer Jan Devereaux prepare the new female mannequin for exhibit.



Right: "Steadfast Trailblazers: Women in the Texas Rangers" can be found in Taub Hall.

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum wishes to thank Captain Wende Wakeman, Captain Melba Saenz, Ranger Laura Simmons and Ranger Veronica Gideon for their assistance and loan of artifacts for the exhibit. We also want to thank Jan Devereaux, Museum Volunteer and Docent, for her able assistance on these exhibits and for providing funding for the female mannequin featured in "Steadfast Trailblazers: Women in the Texas Rangers."

We encourage you to visit the museum to see the new exhibit and to learn more about these trailblazing women.

Trailblazing Rangers

We are proud to announce that the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame honored Captain Wende Wakeman, Captain Melba Saenz, Ranger Veronica Gideon, and Ranger

Laura Simmons at the Induction Luncheon. Hats off to these trailblazing women.



[Enjoy this short video TRAF put together for the event.](#)

Bicentennial Feature in *Cowboys & Indians Magazine*

The January 2023 issue of *Cowboys & Indians Magazine* will feature an exclusive article on the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and the upcoming 2023 Bicentennial of the founding of the Texas Rangers. It will be available for purchase on newsstands this December.



Collections Manager Shelly Crittendon and Collections Assistant Eric Richard handpicked 15 treasures from the museum collections for the article: artwork, photos, artifacts. TRHF Marketing Specialist Christine Rothenbush provided information on the Museum, a full-page advertisement and historic photographs for use in the feature. Dr. Jody Ginn wrote a background piece on the Texas Rangers to compliment the feature. Dana Joseph,

Editorial Director of *Cowboys & Indians Magazine*, coordinated the creation of the centerpiece.

Statewide events and commemorations will kick off in January of 2023 with the Ft. Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. <https://texasranger2023.org/>

Texas Trail of Fame Newest Inductee



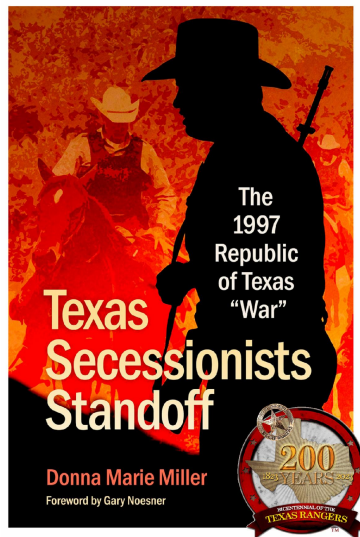
The Texas Trail of Fame is located in the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District in Fort Worth, Texas, which was established to honor those who have made a significant contribution to our Western heritage, traditions, and values, and is dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of the Western way of life. This year, the Texas Trail of Fame is celebrating their 25th Anniversary with a special induction of honorees including the Texas Rangers!

The Texas Trail of Fame - Texas Ranger bronze star was unveiled in front of the Drover Hotel, its permanent new home. In honor of all the Texas Rangers past and present, many Rangers attended this historic occasion.



A special Thanks to Ret. Capt. Barry Caver for the pictures.

Upcoming Events at TRHFM



Book Launch: "Texas Secessionists Standoff", Donna Marie Miller

On Friday, December 30th join us for a book launch, signing and panel discussion on the Republic of Texas Standoff.

Marking the 25th anniversary of the event, Donna Marie Miller has written *Texas Secessionists Standoff: The 1997 Republic of Texas "War"* and will be on site to discuss the book. Buy your copy at the TRHFM gift shop. Miller will be here from 10am to 1pm in the Hall of Fame. The presentation will begin at 11am. Event is included with museum admission.

For a synopsis of the book, [please click here](#).



Kick off the **Bicentennial Year** with activities for kids of all ages!

January 14th - Cowpokes!

Cowboy themed story time and crafts.

February 11th - Prickly for You!

Cactus themed Valentine's Day story time and crafts.

March - Home on the Range

Our annual event featuring Ranger Re-enactors and more. Date coming soon.

Hours are 10:00AM to 1:00PM

Visit www.texasranger.org for more info

Last Twelve Months

When we look back at the year 2022, one word can describe it: Buoyancy.



Buoyancy is the ability or tendency to float in water or air or some other fluid. If the 2020 Covid Pandemic and I-35 Construction were the liquids, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum showed its buoyancy this year. Specifically, September monthly attendance shows an even stronger return to 82% of the best September on record (2019).

Texas State Historical Association November Newsletter

TRHFM was spotlighted in the recent Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) newsletter, which reaches 70k+ subscribers.

The mission of the TSHA is to “foster the appreciation, understanding, and teaching of the rich and unique history of Texas and, by example and through programs and activities, encourage and promote research, preservation, and publication of historical material affecting the state of Texas.” TSHA is the oldest learned society in our state. Organized in Austin on March 2, 1897, the founders of TSHA brought lay and professional historians together to



News and Events

November 2022

Partner Spotlight

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum



[The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum](#) in Waco is the Official Historical Center of the world-renowned law enforcement agency, dedicated to preserving and teaching Texas Ranger history. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is a successful partnership between the City of Waco, private benefactors, Texas DPS/Texas Rangers and the State of Texas. In 1964 the Texas Public Safety Commission appointed the City of Waco trustee and granted permission to build the official museum of the Texas Rangers in

document and celebrate the state's complex and diverse history.

Waco City Academy

We were happy to welcome the current class of the Waco City Academy on Saturday, November 5th.



Participants were offered refreshments while Director Byron Johnson shared a little bit about the history of both the museum and the Texas Rangers. After a brief Q&A, participants were given a family pass for free admission so they can come back to the museum on their own and spend as much time as they'd like. We are always happy to meet with citizens excited to learn about local governance and all the hard work it takes to keep things rolling.

In Memoriam: Clarence Gilyard, Jr.



RIP. Actor and academic Clarence Gilyard Jr, known for roles in such TV series as *Walker, Texas Ranger* and *Matlock*, as well as films including *Die Hard* and *Top Gun*, died on November 29th. From 1993-2001, he starred with Chuck Norris as Jimmy Trevette in CBS' *Walker, Texas Ranger*. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas' College of Fine Arts, where Gilyard was a film and theater professor, shared the news of his passing. He was 66.

New Gift Shop Product: Aluminum Wallet

Aluminum Card Holder/Money Clip
\$25.95 + Tax



To shop more items available for purchase, please visit our [Gift Shop online](#) or in person 9am to 4:30pm daily. You never have to pay admission to shop. Sales from the Gift Shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum. Please call (254) 750-8631 or email thestore@texasranger.org to order. We ship worldwide. Thank you!

Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ Partners Program

Be part of the Texas Ranger Bicentennial!
The Texas Rangers will commemorate their landmark 200th anniversary in 2023. 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. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame is a 170(c) government-owned nonprofit.

Please [click here](#) to learn more about the program.



Official Texas Rangers Bicentennial Pin

Trademarked by the Texas Dept. of Public Safety
Designed by the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and
Museum



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ENJOY
\$2.00 OFF

Expires 12/31/2022

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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