



November 2016

# 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

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### Military Appreciation Day



On Veterans Day, Friday, November 11th, active duty personnel, retirees and veterans will receive FREE admission in honor of their service and sacrifice. Family members will receive

### Sculpture Donation

#### By Artist W. Duane Free

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum recently received a generous donation of a bronze sculpture from Mr. Wenlock Free. Mr. Free donated the first copy of a bronze created by his father, artist W. Duane Free. The sculpture, entitled *Buck Duane - Texas Ranger*, depicts a fictional Ranger named Buck Duane who appears in several Zane Grey novels.



Left to Right: Artist W. Duane Free and Museum Director Byron Johnson

W. Duane Free has been sculpting since he was a child in the late 1950s, beginning with soap and wood carvings when he was a Boy Scout. He took first place in his troop's carving contest, and with that, an interest in sculpture was born. As a youth, Free spent his summers with the Shoshone Indians and in high school earned money working for rodeo supply stores. With this background, he developed an appreciation and passion for Western history and art. When Free was a child, his father was an avid Western novel reader who worked in the gold and silver mines in Nevada and Utah. Zane Grey novels were among his father's favorites and the plots often featured Texas Rangers. The Buck Duane

discounted admissions. Please show a valid id or documentation of service.

### Big Texas Christmas Present



The Big Texas Christmas Present returns on Saturday, December 10th.

Please stay tuned for more information.

### Ranger Brashear



In December of 1863, Richard Rhodes Brashear enlisted in George Erath's Texas Rangers and served in the Confederacy in North Texas.

Recently, his great, great grandson, Mr. Jay Drake of Dublin, set about locating his lost grave, found in a somewhat forgotten corner of the De Leon Cemetery.

On Sunday, October 16th (his great, great grandfather's birthday), Texas Rangers, family and friends gathered at the Cemetery to honor Texas Ranger Brashear.

character was such an influence in his father's life that he chose to name him Duane.



W. Duane Free has participated in several major Western art shows in America, including the C.M. Russell Art Show and Auction, the National Western Art Show and Auction, and the Oregon Trails National Art Show. His works have been exhibited across the country and he has clients throughout the United States and Europe.

*Buck Duane - Texas Ranger* will be featured in the Museum's Pop Culture Gallery early next year when exhibit renovations in that gallery are complete.

### Junior Ranger Penny Sue Weldon

#### Sworn in by Texas Ranger Conde

"I cannot be certain who was responsible but, as a result of the previous email, Texas Ranger Raymond "Conde" Benoist, Jr. contacted me. We met, had a glass of tea and laid a plan for him to "swear in" my granddaughter, Penny Sue Weldon, as a Junior Texas Ranger. This was done on Saturday, October 8th.

**Charlie M. Webb**



In the article "The Killing that Put Hardin on the Run: Just who was Charlie M. Webb?" for *True West Magazine*, Norman W. Brown recounts Texas Ranger Lieutenant Charlie M. Webb's plan to take down notorious outlaw John Wesley Hardin.

Please [click here](#) to read the article.



I must tell you that Ranger Conde and everyone involved on the Ranger side of it went well beyond anything expected. Conde borrowed one of Penny's Ranger books and had it signed by at least a dozen active Rangers. There can be no doubt in anyone's mind that becoming a Junior Ranger, and the manner in which Conde handled it, this little girl's life has been touched in a great way. If it does nothing more than reinforce her sense of honesty (and hopefully helps keep her on the straight and narrow path) as she goes forward in life, it was worth it.

The entire Weldon Family wants to thank everyone who helped make this valuable impression on such a special little life!"

- Richard H. Weldon

**Peace Treaty**



In the article "The Unbroken Peace Treaty: After Texas gained statehood, Penatekas stayed true to a treaty negotiated with German emigrants" for *True West Magazine*, Tim Dasso recounts the historic treaty between the Penatekas Comanche tribe and the City of Fredericksburg.

Please [click here](#) to read the article.

**Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Class**

**DPS and the Rangers at the Museum**

"The training involved the Texas Ranger Division and five members from the DPS - Crime Laboratory. As a part of our training for all Rangers, it is our belief that all Rangers attend this training as they will be investigating violent crime scenes. This training is the 'Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis' class that meets the criteria established by the International Association of Bloodstain Pattern Analysts (IABPA). We typically conduct this training once per calendar year."

- Texas Ranger Troy E. Wilson

**Holiday Hours**



The Texas Ranger Museum, Armstrong Research Center and John Knox Center will be closed on Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 24th), Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25th) and New Years Day (Sunday, January 1st).

We will reopen the following days at 9am. Avoid the long lines at the local mall and come see the Museum and shop in our Gift Shop. Thank you.

**Donations Welcome**



The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum is fundraising to renovate its exhibits and galleries.

To be a part of this legacy and heritage, please contact Christine Rothenbush at (254) 750-8631 for more information.

**Education Center**



Members who attended the training in the Mitchell Education Center and the John Knox Center.

**Surveying Program**

**With GWCHE and Walker Partners**

On Monday, October 3rd, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum hosted middle and high school-aged students from the Greater Waco Christian Home Educators (GWCHE) homeschool cooperative. The Texas Ranger Surveying program presents students with an opportunity to examine how Texas colonization shaped the very landscape we know today. Lured by the promise of land, American and European settlers arrived in Texas between 1823 and 1845. It was necessary for acreage to be divided justly, and the role of surveyor became integral to maintaining harmony among settlers. Several early Texas Rangers, including George Bernard Erath and John Coffee "Jack" Hays, doubled as surveyors; many of the locations they laid out continue to be thriving communities. Using replicas of early surveying equipment, students learn about the methods utilized by these pioneers, and how the early surveyor's knowledge, skills and abilities translate with those of civil engineers, today.

The following organizations were guests of the Mitchell Education Center in October:

Texas Rangers  
Texas DPS  
McLennan County  
District Attorney's  
Office  
Reserve Officers  
Association of the  
United States  
AFP  
NAACP

### Quick Links

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The staff is grateful for the participation of Jacob Bell, P.E. and Marty Polk, R.P.L.S. of Walker Partners in facilitating instruction on present-day civil engineering and surveying. Thank you!

The Texas Ranger Surveying program is available on a limited reservation basis; for more information, contact the Education Programs Manager at (254) 750-8631.

## Living History Day

### At Fort Griffin

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum was honored to participate in this year's Fort Griffin Living History Days, held October 7 and 8 at Fort Griffin State Historic Site. Hundreds of visitors, including school children, historians and families, attended the two-day event. Activities and interpretation included artillery, cavalry and infantry demonstrations, blacksmithing, period children's games, frontier living, ranching and Native American culture. "Time Was..." shared period music, and the Texas Camel Corps and Texas Camel Connection offered insight into the workings of the United States Camel Corps.



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Saturday afternoon to open the new Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail, which begins at Fort Griffin. The event coincided with the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the African American Buffalo Soldiers.

Fort Griffin, fifteen miles north of Albany, served as a U.S. Cavalry western defense post from 1867 until 1881. Founded to protect area settlers from Kiowa and Comanche raids, the fort housed as many as 469 troops at one time, including several units of Buffalo Soldiers. A thriving boom town sprang up near the fort, and served as a major supply point for the buffalo hide trade. The town gained a reputation of lawlessness, attracting such personalities as Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and the outlaw John Wesley Hardin. Today, the 506-acre Fort Griffin, which hosts part of the Texas State Longhorn Herd, is managed by the Texas Historical Commission.

Please [click here](#) or call (325) 762-3592 for more information on Fort Griffin.

## Living History Day

### With the Texas Top Guns

On Saturday, October 22nd, members of the Texas Top Guns Frontier Battalion Company "D" joined the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum for an afternoon of living history presentations portraying Nineteenth Century Texas Rangers.



Taking place in the Hall of Fame rotunda, the Top Guns brought to life the personalities of Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross, Dan W. Roberts and wife Luvenia, and Leander McNelly. These characters were portrayed by Jim Underwood, Scott Bundy, Bailee Duren and David Aitkens, respectively. Following the presentations, the Top Guns took questions and made themselves available for photographs.

For more information on the Texas Top Guns, contact the museum's Education Programs Manager at (254) 750-8631.

## Maintenance at the Museum

### A New AC Unit

A new five-ton rooftop AC unit was lifted onto the rooftop of the Hall of Fame building by a large crane.



We appreciate the support of the City of Waco Facilities Department.

## Gift Shop Feature

## Texas Ranger Tumblers

Do you need the perfect gift for a police officer or history buff? Texas Ranger vacuum insulated stainless steel tumblers feature the Ranger badge and the famous "One Riot, One Ranger" quote in silver font on matte black body with clear lid. \$27.95 for 20oz and \$37.95 for 30oz



Sales from the Gift Shop benefit the preservation and education activities of the Museum. Please call (877) 750-8631 or email [thestore@texasranger.org](mailto:thestore@texasranger.org) to reserve your copy. Thank you!

**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: December 31, 2016**