

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter Sponsored by the City of Waco

September 2012

#### **Featured Articles**

H-E-B Tournament of Champions Donation

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Major Bryant Wells

Run, Hide, Fight

Video on the Museum

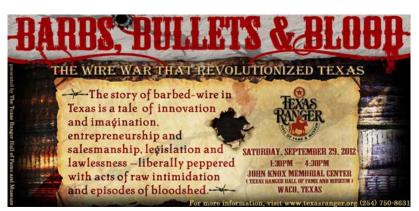
Houston Fundraiser for TRHFM

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The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum will host 'Barbs, Bullets & Blood: The Wire War That Revolutionized Texas' on September 29th from 1:30 to 4:30pm. More information will be available in our special edition newsletter coming September 10th.

### Video on the Museum



The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and the Waco City Cable Channel have produced a 6 minute video on the Rangers and its efforts to renovate the Hall of Fame and Museum for the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers.

Our thanks to the staff of the Waco City Cable Channel for this impressive addition to our efforts. Please watch it and share the link with your friends.

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## Houston Fundraiser for TRHFM

On August 25th, Mr. Danny S. Davis of Houston, Texas hosted a fundraising party at his home in support of renovations to the Texas

programs that have a positive impact on our communities.

Ms. Winell Herron, H-E-B Tournament of Champions Trustee, stated, "We are pleased to recognize the contribution your organization has made to the well-being of Texans. It is our sincere hope that this TOC donation will help enhance the success of your program."

Thank you, H-E-B Tournament of Champions, for the generous donation. For more information on the H-E-B Tournament of Champions, <u>click here</u>.



September 1, 2012

Mayor Malcolm Duncan, Jr. proclaimed September 1, 2012 as "Texas Ranger Chief Kirby Dendy Day" in the City of Waco and urged the people of Waco to join with the City Council, the City staff, and him in congratulating Waco area resident, Kirby Dendy, on his promotion to the Chief of the Texas Rangers.

The City of Waco extends best wishes for a successful and rewarding future. Ranger Hall of Fame. The event was co-sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence and Danielle Berry and attracted 200 persons from the Greater Houston area.



Three distinguished Chiefs Texas Rangers attended, including incoming Chief Kirby Dendy, Retired Chief Tony Leal and special guest retiring Chief Hank Whitman. Major Freeman Martin and eleven Rangers from Houston's Company "A" attended.

We appreciate the support, entertainment and hospitality provided by our hosts and are grateful for the contributions.

## Hank Whitman Retires as Chief of the Texas Rangers and Assistant Director of Texas DPS

On September 1st, Hank Whitman retired after a distinguished record of leadership with the Texas Rangers. The Texas Public Safety Commission, Texas DPS Director Steven McCraw, and Texas Gov. Rick Perry paid tribute to his leadership and 22 years of service with DPS.

"For over 30 years, Hank has served his country and his state in law enforcement with the honor and professionalism expected of a



Texas Ranger," said Gov. Perry. "He is part of an elite group of individuals who put on a badge every day and selflessly commit to protecting the innocent from the evil. We will be forever grateful for his devotion to Texas and wish him well in his retirement."

Chief Whitman, a native of Corpus Christi, graduated in 1974 from Carroll High and attended Southwest Texas State University. He began his law enforcement career in 1978 when he joined the Corpus Christi Police Department and later earned a master's degree in public administration from Texas A & M-Corpus Christi. In 1990, he joined Texas DPS and served in the Highway Patrol until 1996, when he was promoted to sergeant/investigator in the Criminal





Major Bryant Wells

Major Bryant Wells was appointed Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers. Major Wells served as commander of Company "B" in its Garland headquarters.

Company "B" is currently the largest company of Rangers with a Major, three Lieutenants and twenty four Rangers. The territory of responsibility for Company "B" contains forty two counties and nearly one-fourth of the population of the State of Texas. It spans the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex and area east to Texarkana.



#### Run, Hide, Fight

The City of Houston Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security produced a video on safety procedures should you find yourself in the midst of a random shooting. Please watch it and share the link with your friends.

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Investigations Division. In 2001, he joined the Texas Ranger division as a sergeant.

His outstanding performance and distinguished record led to a 2005 promotion to Ranger Lieutenant at Company "D" then headquartered in San Antonio. In 2008, he rose to Captain and in 2009 was promoted to Assistant Chief of the Rangers in Austin. Along the way, he also served as interim Inspector General of DPS.

In March of 2011, he was named Chief of the Texas Rangers division and DPS Assistant Director. His familiarity with South Texas proved invaluable as he led the agency into an era of greatly expanded Border operations and the founding of a new special response "Ranger Reconnaissance Team."

Chief Whitman has been an ardent supporter of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and the preservation of Texas Ranger history. He has graciously accepted a position on the museum Board. We look forward to working with him as the Hall of Fame prepares for the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers in 2023.

# Kirby Dendy Appointed Chief of the Texas Rangers and Assistant Director of Texas DPS

Texas DPS Director Stephen McCraw and the Texas Public Safety Commission have announced the appointment of Kirby Dendy as incoming Chief of the Texas Rangers. Chief Dendy served as Captain, and later Major, of Company "F" at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum from 1995 to 2011.



With 25 years in the Texas Rangers and 41 years of unbroken service in the Texas Department of Public Safety, he is currently the longest continually serving member of

Texas DPS and the third longest-tenured Texas Ranger. He has served in four divisions of DPS and in all Texas Ranger ranks from Sergeant to Chief. His service with DPS exceeds even that of the legendary "Border Boss" John R. Hughes and the revered Col. Homer Garrison, Jr.

Chief Dendy was born in Dublin, Texas and graduated from Lancaster High School in 1971. While attending the University of Texas at Austin, he worked for the Department of Public Safety's Communications Service.

He applied to the DPS Academy and was accepted into DPS Recruit School. His outstanding performance as a recruit was rewarded with the prestigious Norman Zator Award and honor of selection as valedictorian of his recruit class.

From June 1974 to September of 1976, Chief Dendy served as a Highway Patrolman in Fort Stockton, transferring to Waco in 1976. In 1979, he became an officer of the DPS Narcotics Division in Waco compiling an impressive record of drug interdiction and undercover work.



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In 1987, he was selected as a Texas Ranger, following his father John Dendy into the service. In modern times a select few fathers and sons have become Texas Rangers: A. Y. Allee and A. Y. Allee Jr., Richard and Tony Bennie, Buster and Jeff Collins, Jack and Kyle Dean, Bennie and Glenn Krueger, Bob and Randy Prince, and Hardy and L. H. Purvis.

In 1992, he was promoted to lieutenant of Company E in Midland, and in 1995 moved back to Waco to captain of Waco's Company "F" where he remained until May of 2011. While at Company "F" he collaborated in the renovation of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and guided the design of the new Company "F" Headquarters and educational center. He was appointed Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers in 2011 managing the new, intensive focus on Border operations.

The Texas Rangers Division oversees border security operations and is comprised of 213 employees, including 150 Texas Rangers. The Rangers Division also specializes in major incident crime investigations, unsolved crime/serial crime investigations, public corruption investigations and officer-involved shooting investigations. Additionally, the Special Operations Group of the Texas Rangers includes the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) and Ranger Reconnaissance Team.

"For almost 200 years, the Texas Rangers have excelled at protecting the lives and property of the citizens of this great state," said Ranger Dendy. "That tradition continues to be demonstrated daily by the dedicated, professional men and women who make up the Texas Ranger Division. It is quite humbling and an unbelievable honor to be chosen to lead them."

## John Forsting's 1858 Remington Revolver

Major Timothy Forsting and his sister Katherine Forsting recently donated their great grandfather's 1858 Remington Revolver to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.



John Forsting was born in Bremen, Germany in 1860 and the Forsting family immigrated to the United States in 1869 and settled in Kentucky where they became farmers. In 1877, John Forsting and his brother Henry moved west to become cowboys and ended up in Ogallala, Nebraska where they worked with Texas ranchers and cowboys who had come north on the Goodnight Loving Trail. When John moved west he carried this Remington Revolver with him. The Forsting brothers worked for the II Bar Ranch west of Ogallala until around 1882 when the ranch moved to Chugwater, Wyoming. John stayed with II Bar Ranch until the late 1880s. The II Bar Ranch was an old west Texas brand that moved to Wyoming and has been there



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