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February 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

True West Magazine Reader's Choice

**The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and
Museum has received the**

Reader's Choice Award



“Best of the West” Museum 2022

from readers of *True West Magazine*.

Bicentennial Badge Collection Arrives

We received a magnificent gift of 13 badges representing the current ranks of Texas Rangers service. As we approach the 200th year of their service, this is an important and iconic reminder of their dedication to the people of Texas. Each badge clearly shows the painstaking care and hundreds of hours of master craftsmanship that Kevin Johnson had invested in this legacy for future generations.



Silversmith Kevin Johnson at his jeweler's bench

This set of badges commemorating the 200th anniversary take their place among the museum's historic collection of badges spanning the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. TRHFM badge collections span the years from the horseback days of the Old West to this new modern-day collection. We even have a set of three that orbited the Earth on Space Shuttle Endeavor and flew to the International Space Station.



We appreciate the generosity of the late J. Fred Bucy III and his family in supplying the gold coins used in the set. Like the Sam Houston painting restoration Bucy and family underwrote, the set is a permanent legacy for future generations.



Shelly Crittendon, Collections Manager, receives the badges and custom wood case from Lieutenant Michael Parker, Company "C"

We appreciate Ranger Chief Collins' authorization to have the set made for the Ranger's permanent collections at the museum.

Commemorating Black History Month

The history of African Americans and the Texas Rangers extends back to at least the 1830s when free Black Hendrick Arnold served in the Texian Army and later as a Texas Ranger and in the U.S. Mexican War. The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame has a web page devoted to this remarkable history, from frontier days to the modern era and their service in all ranks from field Ranger to Chief.

Black Ranger History



Jim Werner, Teamster



Sergeant Christine Nix



Chief Earl Pearson, Ret.

Unsolved Crime Investigation Program

One of the many responsibilities of the Texas Rangers is the investigation of “cold” major unsolved crimes such as homicides and sexual assaults. Each Company has a Ranger assigned to this initiative under the supervision of Former Ranger James Scoggins. The efforts and success of this program has been recognized nationally.

[Please click to learn more about UCIP.](#)



A suspect's body being exhumed for DNA comparison.

TRHFM on *Beyond Oak Island*

Over the last 46 years the Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center has assisted US and international production companies on television, streaming and film projects. These include major motion pictures and series such as *Hell or High Water*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Walker Texas Ranger*, *Texas Rising* as well as documentaries for PBS, BBC, Discovery Channel, History Channel and many others.

In late 2021 the producers of a popular History Channel show, *Beyond Oak Island*, requested assistance with a show on Sam Bass and the Texas Rangers which aired January 18th.

[Please click to play the episode.](#)



Some attractive footage of the Museum complex is at about 11:25 minutes into the program. We put them in contact with historian and colleague Rick Miller who is the leading authority on Sam Bass and the Round Rock shootout. It ran nationally this week and can be seen on the above link. Our Collections Manager Shelly Crittendon, along with Christina Stopka, head of the Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center; Rusty Bloxom, Research Librarian; and Christine Rothenbush, Marketing and Development Specialist; assisted them.



Sam Bass (July 21, 1851 – July 21, 1878) was a 19th-century American train robber and outlaw, who died as a result of wounds sustained in a gun battle with Texas Rangers. Notoriously, he was part of a gang that robbed a train of \$60,000 (equivalent to \$1.5 million in 2020). The evidence is strong that Sam had no hidden loot as he and his pals fled toward Round Rock and their final rendezvous with the Texas Rangers. He spent his last twenty-dollar gold piece in Waco as they were fleeing from the law in North Texas. The treasure hunters however believe the "loot" is in Panola County, on the Texas-Louisiana border. Watch the story unfold...

"Love and our Laptop Lives" Blog

"During our recent blogging venture to Waco, we had the privilege of visiting the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame.

First, I would like to thank you for providing such a lovely museum filled with incredible history. Waco was not a planned stop on our Texas trip, but we had an extra week and made the stop. That being the case, we had done our research first and did not know what to expect.

We loved the way tribute was given to past and present Texas Ranger. In particular, what impressed us was that things were not sugar-coated. You shared the good and the questionable.

Thank you for allowing us to tour the museum. We have featured you in our Waco Blog and wanted to share it with you."

- Gary and Michelle



FUN & ROMANTIC
THINGS TO DO IN

Waco, Texas

<https://loveandourlaptoplives.com/fun-things-to-do-in-waco/>

Spotlight on Retired Chief Hank Whitman

We are fortunate to have Henry (Hank) Whitman as Chair of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Advisory Board. Like many Texas Rangers, he has had a distinguished career in the military, public service and private business. He served as a Marine Corps Sergeant, a Trooper in Texas Highway Patrol, promoted to a Texas Ranger eventually leading them as Chief. After retiring from law enforcement, he headed the \$3 Billion Texas Department of Family and Protective Services overseeing foster and elder care, and has been a private security consultant for major corporations. The veterans magazine *We are the Mighty* has done a profile of his career and contributions.



Whitman said, "I have been successful in life and I attribute it all to the Marine Corps. I have testified numerous times before Texas Senate and House hearings which they ask me about my past and I always say, 'the Marine Corps shaped my life more than my college education.' "

[From the USMC to the Texas Rangers, Hank Whitman Continues to Thrive](#)

Traveling Soldier

On January 28th, Blair Dupre recalled a recent Museum visit in the article "Texas-Sized History" for the *Fort Hood Sentinel's* *Traveling Soldier* section.



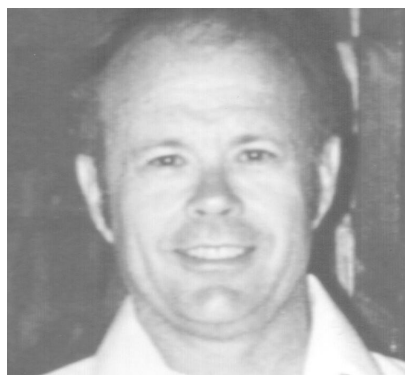
Dupre said, "I have a huge interest in true crime, and it was interesting learning about the Rangers' history in solving cases. First of all, I didn't realize that they had been responsible for stopping Bonnie and Clyde, and over the years they tested different kinds of tools like mapping technology, photography and digital imaging in solving crime. Seeing the technology change over the years was fascinating."

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

Spring Break Round Up Returns!



Bequest Makes the Local News



Thanks to Waco Tribune for sharing our incredible news! The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum recently received a \$1.2 million bequest from the estate of Samuel McClendon, the son-in-law of a Texas Ranger who was involved in the museum's founding 57 years ago.

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

New T-shirts in the Gift Shop

Bella Canvas Orange/Blue Design T-shirts

100% Bella cotton. Adult small - 2xl.
\$21.00 + Tax each



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 (877) 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 4/1/2022

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