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September 2022

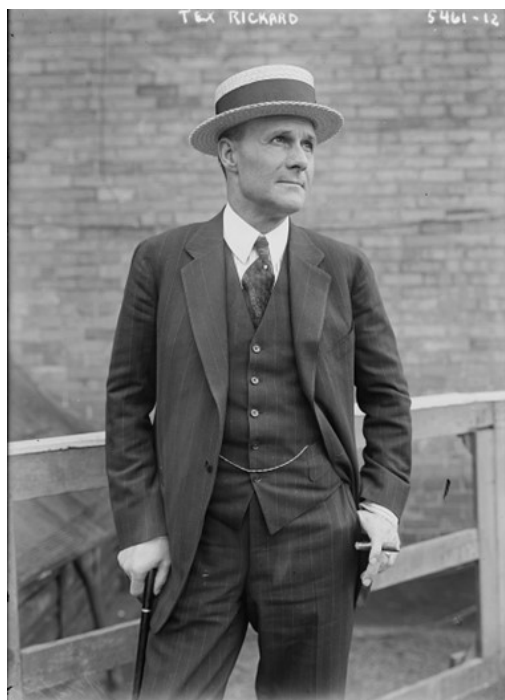
Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Newsletter

Sponsored by the City of Waco

Official State Historical Center of the Texas Rangers

Home of Texas Ranger Bicentennial 1823-2023

Rangers Inspire Hockey



George "Tex" Rickard
Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph
Division

Many are familiar with the Texas Rangers baseball team but there are actually two professional sports teams inspired by the Texas Rangers. One in Texas and one in New York. For the full story, let's start with a gentleman named "Tex" Rickard.

George "Tex" Rickard was born in Kansas City, Missouri on January 2, 1871. Rickard grew up in Sherman, Texas. He started as a cowboy on his family's ranch at age eleven and would acquire the nickname "Tex." Rickard moved to Henrietta, Texas and at 23 years old was elected city marshal. He served as a lawman for Henrietta. Not just a lawman, he became known as a superior poker player. Eventually, Rickard left Texas to travel the United States opening gambling establishments in the Alaska, California, and Nevada gold fields before finding his way into the world of boxing promotion. He acquired Madison Square Garden in New York City to host his boxing matches.

At the time, the New York Americans, a professional hockey team, played in the Garden and this inspired Rickard to petition the National Hockey League for his own franchise in 1926. Rickard's team was dubbed "Tex's Rangers" by the local press as a direct reference to the Texas Rangers and jab at Rickard's Texas origins. The name stuck and Rickard would go on to name the team the New York Rangers. The team won their first Stanley

cup in 1928. Rickard was president of the team until his death in 1929 at the age of 59. Since their founding, the New York Rangers have won three more Stanley Cups and have sent sixty players, coaches, and owners to the Hockey Hall of Fame.



Collections Assistant Eric Richard holding the Hockey Stick



Signature of Mika Zibanejad #93 for the New York Rangers

The New York Rangers and Madison Square Garden Corporation gifted the museum a signed souvenir hockey stick to represent the team and its connection to the Texas Rangers. The stick is our most recent addition to our pop culture collection. It is signed by New York Ranger Mika Zibanejad a 2022 NHL All-Star and Ice Hockey World Champion from Sweden.

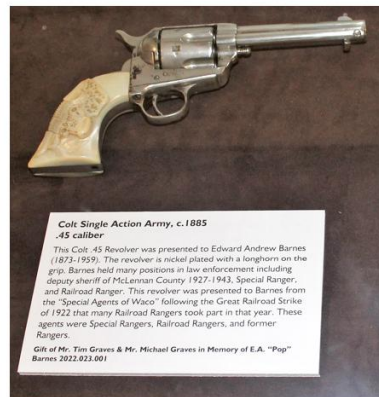
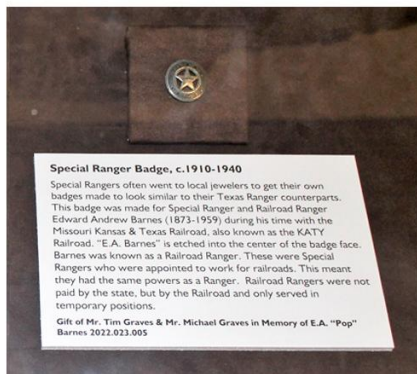
I-35 Construction Nears Completion

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has opened all four northbound and southbound lanes on I-35 in Waco! There is still construction on the frontage roads, including work in front of the Museum as seen on the right side of the picture below, but the highway is smooth and expansive. Workers have really strived to finished ahead of schedule with the project scheduled for completion in early 2023. Our appreciation to the workers out there in the heat getting things done.



New Acquisitions Exhibit

The Collections Department recently changed out the New Acquisitions exhibit in the front lobby. Currently featured in the case are several new firearms from the museum's collections, including a Fabriqu D'armes Automatiques Nicolas Pieper 1908 Model C pistole that was given to J.E. Ziegelmeyer by Ranger Captain M.T. Gonzauillas, and a Colt Single Action Army Revolver donated to the museum by the De Soto Police Department from their voluntary gun surrender program. Also featured alongside several other firearms are the Colt Single Action Army Revolver and Special Ranger badge once belonging to Railroad Ranger E.A. Barnes, donated to the museum by his grandsons, Tim Graves and Michael Graves.



The New Acquisition case is a place to display the new and exciting items that have been recently donated to the Texas Ranger Museum. The museum collections are always growing and changing thanks to our dedicated donors. From historic firearms to pop culture to the modern Texas Rangers, there is always something new at the Texas Ranger Museum.

New Discovering the Legend Episode

In episode 44, we sit down with retired Ranger Jim Huggins about his notable experiences in the Rangers and his role as a lecturer at Baylor University.



Please **[click here](#)** to access all *Discovering the Legend* episodes. Presented by The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, this series takes a look at some interesting stories covering more than two centuries of law enforcement by the revered members of the Texas Rangers. Produced by The City of Waco.

ARTE Documentary

Documentary makers from the French public channel ARTE visited the museum on August 17th. Co-Directors, Cécile Clocheret and François Picard interviewed historian Doug Dukes about Captain Jack Hays and his early Texas Rangers. Mr. Dukes also discussed two of the most important firearms in Ranger history, the Colt Paterson and the Colt Walker. The documentary is scheduled to be released in France in January 2023.



TRHFM Personnel Update

After 40+ years, Lisa Brooks, Visitor Services Manager, retired at the end of August. Brooks managed Customer Service Representatives (CSR) in both the admissions and gift shop of the Museum as well as making sure our visitors had the best experience possible. Thank you, Lisa, your impact on the museum will outlast your years of service. Best wishes for your retirement!



On August 2nd, Dr. Jody Edward Ginn was named Director of Development for the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame & Museum. Dr. Ginn is a former law enforcement investigator/administrator and U.S. Army veteran who has worked as a multi-media consultant to museums, filmmakers, and educational institutions/non-profits, and as an adjunct professor of history, for over 20 years. As a museum consultant and executive, Dr. Ginn has raised funds for historical projects – from traveling museum exhibits to educational films to full museum development projects – for over 20 years. Welcome to the museum, Dr. Ginn.

DPS Announces Two Retirements and Two Promotions at Leadership Positions

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) announces the retirement of Central Texas Regional Director Todd Snyder and Texas Ranger Assistant Chief Brian Burzynski.



(From left: Todd Snyder, Brian Burzynski, Vincent T. Luciano II and Corey Lain)

Todd Snyder has served DPS faithfully for the past 26 years. He began his career in law enforcement with the Nolan County Sheriff's Office. After four years, he joined DPS in 1996 as a Texas Highway Patrol Trooper. In 2000, he promoted to Criminal Law Enforcement sergeant/investigator, and in 2003, Snyder promoted into the Texas Rangers Division. He served as a Ranger from 2003 to 2013, before promoting to lieutenant, then captain, and finally major in 2015. Snyder then served as Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers until his promotion to Regional Director of the Central Texas Region in 2019.

Brian Burzynski joined DPS in 1999 and spent his first four years with the Texas Highway Patrol. There he achieved Level VI Crash Reconstruction and was a team member of Region 5's District Crash Reconstruction Team. Burzynski joined the Texas Rangers in 2004. He became a company commander in 2014, and in 2019, promoted to Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers Division. As a Ranger, Burzynski was one of four Texas peace officers to receive the Governor's *Public Service Award* in 2007. That same year, he won the Austin Chronicle's Award for *Best at Restoring Faith in Law Enforcement*, and in 2008, received the "Bill Bass" *Outstanding Graduate Award* at the University of Tennessee's National Forensic Academy. Burzynski was honored by the 80th Texas Legislature with the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 23 for his investigation into the Texas Youth Commission. Burzynski served in the United States Army and is a combat veteran from the first Gulf War. He was a top graduate of the Texas Panhandle Law Enforcement Academy and also worked for the Hereford Police Department.

"These two men have dedicated their lives for many years to the people of this state, and we cannot thank them enough for their service and sacrifice," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "We're also proud to be able to promote such talent from within to take over these critical leadership roles in the department; we know they will do great things." These two retirements created vacancies which are being filled through promotions. These promotions were approved by the Public Safety Commission during its meeting on Thursday, Aug. 25. This includes current Criminal Investigations Division Major Vincent T. Luciano II promoting to Regional Director for the Central Texas Region in San Antonio, and Texas Ranger Major Corey Lain promoting to Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers Division.

Corey Lain, Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers Division

As Assistant Chief of the Texas Rangers Division, Corey Lain will assist in all Ranger operations for the department. Most recently, Lain served as company commander of the Texas Rangers Company "F". He joined DPS in 2000 and served as a Texas Highway Patrol Trooper in Archer and Wichita Counties before promoting to sergeant. In 2009, Lain joined the Texas Ranger Division, Company "C". In 2013, he promoted to Ranger Lieutenant, and in 2016 to Ranger Administrative Captain at DPS Headquarters. In 2017, he promoted to Ranger Major of Company "F". Lain is a certified training instructor and holds a Master Peace Officer certification in the state of Texas. He's graduated from the DPS Command College Cohort 2 and the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy Class 274. He currently serves as the San Antonio Region Representative for

the Texas Chapter of the FBI National Academy Association. Lain holds a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from Sam Houston State University. Assistant Chief Lain will be based at Headquarters in Austin. The promotions are effective Sept. 1.

In Memoriam: H.R. "Lefty" Block

It is with great sadness to report the passing of former Senior Ranger Captain H. R. "Lefty" Block.



Ranger Service
1968-1992
Rank Attained
SENIOR RANGER CAPTAIN
Companies
E, D, HQ
Duty Stations
MIDLAND, BROWNWOOD, SAN
ANTONIO, AUSTIN
Ranger Specializations
SWAT
Joined DPS
1957
Divisions
TEXAS HIGHWAY PATROL
Birthplace
ORANGE, TEXAS

[Please click here to read his 2009 oral history interview.](#)

New Gift Shop Product: Caps

Whether you prefer the iconic Ranger badge or our colorful museum logo, here are two of the new cap designs in the Gift Shop. Prices start at \$21.95 + 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 (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 10/31/2022

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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