



TEXAS RANGER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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Deputy Chief Wells in charge --

Chief Dendy retiring his Ranger badge

Kirby Dendy, assistant director of the Texas Department of Public Safety and Chief of the Texas Rangers, will retire Aug. 31 as he enters his 44th year, and also as the longest continuous serving member of the DPS.



Kirby Dendy

Kirby joined the DPS in 1971 and received his commission as a trooper. He was in Fort Stockton from 1974 to 1976, then stationed in 1976 to the Highway Patrol in Waco. In 1979, he was assigned to the narcotics division. He was elevated to Ranger in May 1987 in Fort Worth.

He was made a lieutenant in 1992 and transferred to Midland. He was named Captain of Co. F and moved back to Waco in 1995.

In 2011, he was transferred to the Austin headquarters as assistant chief of the Rangers and in Sept., 2012, was elevated to assistant director and chief of the Rangers.

Dendy was raised in Lancaster, a community back then with a population of roughly 2,500. Today Lancaster boasts nearly 40,000 residents.

Kirby is also the second longest serving Texas Ranger behind the

legendary Joe Haralson of Texas City.

Dendy's father is a retired Texas Ranger, and his son and son-in-law are members of the DPS CID and patrol divisions, respectively.

"I cannot imagine a stronger endorsement for law enforcement being a family business than to follow and have family members follow with the DPS," he said. "It's a great career."

Dendy added, "There have been a lot of technical innovations in the Rangers since I joined. Foremost, it is still criminal investigation, but technology and forensic sciences have improved so much over the years to make the jobs much more interesting. There are so many more tools today than in the 1980s.

"But you still have to have proper motivation and pride in order for the technical advances to aid you.

"I've had a blessed career to work with so many wonderful people.

"The quality of employees at the DPS is so high that it seems like a gift to work at something you enjoy so much."

Kirby said his plans are to become the best retired grandfather he can possibly be.

His son Travis, a CID officer, and wife Amy have two children, Kayden 4 and Reagan, 1 month. Daughter Andrea and son-in-law Simon de La Cruz, a highway patrolman, have a

child, Caleb, 1 1/2, and are expecting twins.

"Kirby has consistently upheld and shown an unwavering commitment to the values of this department, and he has demonstrated the leadership skills essential to serving as head of the Texas Rangers," said DPS Director Steven McCraw.

"His extensive experience made him uniquely qualified to lead this unparalleled team of officers," McCraw added.

Kirby's last official day as Ranger Chief is Aug. 31, but he is now on official leave. He turned the duties over to deputy chief, Bryant Wells, as of July 1. Dendy and wife Donna will continue to make Waco their home.

Wells moved to the headquarters office in Austin with Dendy in Sept., 2012, when he was appointed Deputy Assistant Director of the DPS and Deputy Chief of the Rangers by McCraw.



Bryant Wells

Wells joined the DPS in early 1982 and after recruit school, was stationed in Navasota as a highway patrol trooper. In 1988 he was promoted to narcotics investigator and served in Garland



JIM HOELKER of Sugar Land was the lucky winner of a 2014 Jeep Wrangler provided by the Texas Ranger Association Foundation at a drawing during Reunion Weekend. Jim's name was drawn out of a barrel. With Jim, left, are Texas Ranger Brent Davis of Co. B in Tyler and dealer Hayden Elder.

Sugar Land man lucky Jeep winner at reunion drawing

Jim Hoelker of Sugar Land is chairman of the board of Impact A Hero, a non-profit organization helping wounded veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was the lucky winner of a 2014 Jeep Wrangler at a drawing during the Texas Ranger Reunion Weekend in June in Waco.

Jim met Ranger Brent Davis of Company B in Tyler to pick up the vehicle from dealer Hayden Elder, who took time to show Jim his father's World War II memorabilia.

Impact A Hero provides immediate and ongoing emotional and financial assistance for severely wounded post-9/11 combat veterans and their families.

Jim bought six chances at the drawing from TRAF director Constance White, and says this is the first thing he has ever won. He calls Constance his "lucky charm."

Dendy cont. from page 1...

and Bryan.

Deputy Wells was promoted to the Rangers in 1995 and was stationed in Brenham and Huntsville as a sergeant. In 2007 he was promoted to lieutenant, stationed in Huntsville. The following year he was named Captain of Co. B in Garland and the following year promoted to Major until his latest assignment in Austin.

Against his modest wishes, a retirement party for Dendy will be held Saturday, Aug. 16, with a social hour at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6 p.m. at John Knox Texas Ranger Memorial Center (located behind the Texas Ranger Museum) in Waco.

The dinner is \$15 per person and checks should be made to "Texas Ranger Badge Fund," and payments should be sent to Cheryl Iselt, executive assistant, Texas Rangers, P.O. Box 4087, Austin, 78773-0600.



HANK WHITMAN, former Texas Ranger Chief, served as Master of Ceremonies during Reunion Weekend in Waco. He presented a Smith & Wesson Model 642 revolver to Mrs. Linda Hunt, wife of the late Texas Ranger and Tom Green County Sheriff Joe Hunt. Mrs. Hunt won the pistol in a drawing. She, along with other wives, was presented a corsage in memory of their late husbands.

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Ranger companies



RETIRED MEMBERS of Company A attending the reunion were (l-r) Jim Huggins, Robert Madeira, Jim Gant, L.C. White, Milton Wright, Ronnie McBride and Dan North.



REPRESENTING COMPANY B were (front row, l-r) Ted Poling, Tom Davis, Lee Young, David Byrnes, Richard Sweaney, James Wright, Ralph Wadsworth, Don Anderson, Eddie Almond, W.D. Vickers and Max Womack. Back row (l-r) Rudy Jaramillo, Johnny Waldrip, Tracy Murphree, Lane Akin, Brantley Foster, Ronny Griffith, Howard Dunham and Charlie Fleming.



CARRYING THE Company C flag were Carl Weathers, Jackie Peoples, Gary Henderson, Marshall Brown, Jimmy Hailey and Dick Johnson.



RETIRED MEMBERS OF Company D at the Reunion were Joe Hutson, Coy Smith, Ray Cano, Jack Dean, Marrie Aldridge, Bobby Poynter and John Martin.



REPRESENTING COMPANY E at the Waco Reunion Weekend were (top row, l-r) Jess Malone, Jerry Byrne, Kenny Ray and Dewayne Goll. Bottom row (l-r) George Frazier, Barry Caver, Calvin Cox, Gene Kea and John Billings.



COMPANY F RETIRED Rangers were Tommy Ratliff, Bobby Connell, Joe Wilie, Bobby Prince, Matt Cawthon and Mark Leger. Back row (l-r) Rocky Wardlow, Ray Nutt, Steve Foster, Ronny Brownlow, Kyle Dean and Rocky Millican.

Executive Director's report --

Ed Rachal reps thanked for TRAF donation



By Liz Myrick, TRAF Executive Director

Feedback from this year's Ranger Reunion has been overwhelmingly positive. We're grateful for the help of so many volunteers and donors.

The silent auction raised \$20,000, as did the raffle of the 2014 Jeep. The golf tournament raised \$28,000 for scholarships for active Texas Ranger children. If you came to the Reunion, we hope you had a great time.

If you did not make it, know you were missed and we hope you'll come next year. Mark your calendars and save the date! The 2015 Reunion will be on June 18- 19, 2015.

At Saturday night's banquet we were delighted to host four representatives from the Ed Rachal Foundation. Attending were David Hoyer, board chairman; Joey McCarty, incoming chairman; John Johnson, board member and Paul D. Altheide, foundation CEO.

It was an honor to have them. The Ed Rachal Foundation is based in Corpus Christi and awarded TRAF \$75,000 for scholarships this past year. Ranger Shane

Staley was instrumental in developing this relationship, and we're grateful for these new friends of TRAF.

Scholarship awards are well under way for Fall 2014. We have some outstanding achievers in this group and it's wonderful to see the full process of the fundraising for scholarships.

With the number of Rangers having increased over the years, the number of scholarships also increased, so we're working hard to find new avenues to support this program.

We're looking forward to traveling your way with more regional fundraisers and events this year. The TRAF Board of Directors and Benefactors have raised the bar this year as well as a great deal of funding by hosting these regional events and we hope to be coming your way soon.

If you'd like to host a fundraising event in your area, please call me at (254)752-1001. They are a blast and we'll be happy to assist in anyway, and we can offer great advice on what's been most successful.

If you have a potential benefactor you'd like us to contact, please let me know. We'll send literature, make calls or plan a visit, whichever is most helpful.



ONE OF THE MOST popular Texas Ranger Retirees, Max Womack, was the 2014 Retiree of the Year and honored at the annual Reunion Weekend in June in Waco. Max and his wife Wanda are retired in Atlanta and most of his family and many friends turned out for his presentation. Womack's witty remarks set the stage for one of the most successful reunions ever staged by the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. Max had a total of 38 years in law enforcement in Texas. He served in Company B.



U.S. NAVY SEAL Commander, Reserves, Mark McGinnis was the featured speaker at Saturday's Reunion Weekend dinner. McGinnis, who is also managing director of the SEAL Legacy Foundation, drew similarities between the duties and history of U.S. Navy SEALs and Texas Rangers. He said both organizations share love of country and dedication to their organizations.



RETIRED TEXAS Ranger Max Womack should get the award for funniest presentation as he entertained old and new friends at the Ranger Reunion Weekend. He regaled the audience with one funny story after another as he reminisced about his years as a Ranger. He was the 2014 Honored Retiree.

Contributors to the TRAF Newsletter:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Capt. Richard Sweaney | Constance White |
| Capt. Barry Caver | Leon Aldridge |
| Danny Chandler | Cheryl Iselt |
| Liz Myrick | Byron Johnson |
| Jim Chionsini | Tia Rae Stone |
| Bill Hartman | |

Reach TRAF Offices at 253-752-1001

**For address changes
call TRAF Office
254-752-1001**



Chairman's Report --

Reunion Weekend aimed for retirees' fun

By Danny Chandler, TRAF Chairman



Danny Chandler

I received many, many emails, texts and calls from those who attended the 2014 Reunion, saying how much they enjoyed it and are looking forward to the next one.

Nuances of the weekend included additional rolls of retired rangers in every phase.

Retired Captain Barry Caver headed the Reunion Committee and did an outstanding job. He's as much a leader in retirement as he was in the Ranger Service.

Retired Chief Hank Whitman volunteered to be the master of

ceremonies for both nights and did a stellar job by capturing the audience's attention and holding it for the duration.

Retired Captain Richard Sweaney guided the efforts in the selection of the retiree, speaker and gift; PowerPoint tribute to the seven deceased rangers and two TRAF board members and the fine touch of presenting each widow in attendance with a corsage so they could be recognized and honored throughout the weekend; and of course he and Captain Caver coordinated the retiree group photos (special thanks to Jim Chionsini for lining up the photographer, Leon Aldridge, who volunteered his services).

Retired Ranger Lt. and Chaplin Kenny Ray skillfully balanced personal memories and humor in his memorial

tributes at Saturday morning's service. This service was well attended and the message and acknowledgments were heart felt.

Friday night's retired ranger speaker Max Womack needs an agent and go on the comedy tour. An actor usually has a script to fall back on and, a team of other actors for support. Max is just a likeable, talented person with an arsenal of jokes. I've told all my friends about his experiences in the house of questionable repute.

Our goal is to continue to involve and serve retired rangers even more in the future. Thanks to all for making this event such a success.

Special thanks to first year golf tournament coordinator, Ranger Jake Burson, Co. F. Job well done!



TEXAS DEPARTMENT of Public Safety Director Steven McCraw accepts a Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association sign at a meeting in San Antonio from a TSCRA director Steve Sikes.

Texas Rangers take part in cattlemen convention

A group of Texas Rangers and members of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation took part in the annual convention of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association in San Antonio.

Steve Sikes, a former TRAF chairman, is also a director in TSCRA and chairman of the Brand and Inspection Committee.

Ranger Major J.D. Robertson gave a presentation on Texas border security. Also included on the program were DPS Director Steven McCraw and Assistant Director and Ranger Chief Kirby Dendy. McCraw and Dendy were presented TSCRA signs with their names attached.

TSCRA has the only private law enforcement agency in the world. The TSCRA Special Rangers are commissioned by the DPS and Texas Rangers.

They investigate cattle theft, personal property theft and border security for TSCRA members or anyone owning livestock. Sikes said last year TSCRA Rangers worked over 1,000 cases and returned to TSCRA members close to \$3 million worth of livestock and personal property.

Three other TRAF directors, Rooter Brite, Bowie; Gary Crawford, Fort Worth; and Jim Chionsini, San Angelo, also attended the convention.

Wilson Ozona party raises \$64,520 for TRAF

One of the most successful regional fundraisers in Texas Ranger Association Foundation history occurred May 3 in Ozona, hosted by TRAF board member Dave Wilson and his wife, Jana.

Guests at the fundraiser started the day with GNAT shooting (remote control airplanes with exploding targets that are shot by shotguns), followed by dinner, a live auction and music was provided by two bands provided by Granger Smith and Jonathan Moody.

Total raised for TRAF was \$64,520, with \$10,100 of it coming from auction items provided by the Rangers. Items included boots, books, hat racks, Texas Ranger belts and holsters, Ranger knives, Texas Ranger coin, and a Western hat signed by all of the Co. E Rangers and a photo of all the Texas Rangers posed in front of the Alamo.

The top money producer in the auction was a Remington

Model 870 donated by Burleigh Locklar Jr. of Co. E. Gaskins family members bought the gun for \$3,100.

Of the total raised, \$37,000 were for benefactor memberships to TRAF, including two Headquarters Benefactor contributions of \$5,000 each, one by David W. Conlon and the other by Carl and Jane Wilson.

One of the highlights of the Wilson party was the raising of a Texas flag 230 feet in the air on a Wilson-owned crane. It overflowed the party all day.

During all of 2013, a total of \$17,000 was raised for TRAF by people joining as benefactors. Through June, the total for 2014 has already hit \$47,000.

In March, another \$5,000 Headquarters Benefactor contribution was made by Larry and Linda Horwood through the introduction to TRAF by board member Jerry and wife Susan Wellborn.



HOST DAVE WILSON (center with blue shirt, golf cap) was the safest guy in Texas on May 3rd, surrounded by a group of Texas Rangers, who turned out to make the Wilson party a great success. Rangers are (l-r) Roger Dixon, Burleigh Locklar Jr., Jeff Vajdos, Dewayne Goll, Kenny Wadsworth, Wilson, Danny Crawford, Joel Timms, Nick Hanna, Tod Reed, Gary Phillips, Brian Burney and Jeff Strain.



THE WILSON FAMILY hosted the successful fundraiser at their residence in Ozona. From left to right are youngest son Dalan Wilson, Host Dave Wilson, country recording artist Granger Smith and Hostess Jana Wilson.



CLAY HART, LOGAN Gaskins and Van Gaskins enjoyed the day's activities. The trio purchased the retired Ranger Remington 870 shotgun, donated by Burleigh Locklar Jr.



JOINING THE Party at the Wilson Ranch in May for a Texas Ranger Association Foundation fundraiser were (l-r) Larry Elkins, Senior Trooper Burleigh Locklar and Texas Ranger Burleigh Locklar Jr., Co. E.

TRAF has 40 college scholarships; five featured

The Texas Ranger Association Foundation will be awarding more than 40 scholarships during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Each full-time student will receive \$2,000 per semester and will be required to maintain a 2.0 semester grade-point average in

the fall term to continue the scholarship into the spring semester.

This group of recipients represents more than 16 Texas colleges and universities and three universities outside of Texas.

We are pleased to feature five of the students in this issue:



MORGAN GOODING is the son of Texas Ranger Trampas Gooding, Co. F. He is attending Texas A&M in College Station as a freshman. He is a graduate of Jack C. Hays High School.



JAYCIE NICOLE WILLER is the daughter of Texas Ranger Stuart M. Willer Jr. She is a freshman at Texas Tech University and plans to major in exercise and sports science. Jaycie is a 2014 graduate of Shallowater High School.



LEEANN NICOLE LOSOYA is the daughter of Texas Ranger Robert Losoya, Co. E. She is attending Angelo State University as a freshman, and she plans to major in nursing. She is a graduate of Fort Stockton High School.



KAITLYN MAKAY JETER is the daughter of Texas Ranger Steven Jeter, Co. A. She is a sophomore at Lone Star Community College in Montgomery, and plans to major in dental hygiene. She has a part-time job at McKenzies' BBQ in Huntsville.



ELISE MARIE BOND is the daughter of Texas Ranger Kenneth Bond, Co. B. She is a freshman at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, and she plans to major in pre-medicine/biochemistry. She is a 2014 graduate of Chapel Hill High, Mount Pleasant.



OLD AND NEW: Retired Ranger Bob Connell and active Ranger Chris Clark swap tales. One of the best parts of Reunion Weekend is for retirees and active Rangers to learn more about what went on and what's happening now.



RETIRING CHIEF of the Texas Rangers, Kirby Dendy, visits with TRAF director Russell Molina, who lives in Houston and is a member of the foundation's finance committee.



GRAY McWHORTER and Rooter Brite check out a Ranger hat during the silent auction exhibition at Reunion Weekend.

Hall of Fame and Museum ready for the new riverfront



THIS IS THE FRONT view of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum from I-35 going through Waco. Baylor's new 45,000-seat stadium opens Aug. 31, right across the Brazos River from the museum, along with connecting foot bridges.

By **Byron Johnson**
 Director Texas Ranger Museum

Over the last two years major improvements to the Waco riverfront have made it challenging to reach the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.

But the wait will be worth it. A new set of I-35 access road bridges were dedicated June 2, and kickoff for the first game in the \$240 million Baylor McLane Stadium is Aug. 31.

What does this mean for the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and the Texas Ranger Association Foundation? Greatly increased visibility.

Two new I-35 access road bridges have been built to handle the ever-increasing traffic in front of the museum. A staggering 44.5 million vehicles pass by the official historical center of the Texas Rangers every year

The twin bridges, built at a cost of \$43 million, will increase traffic flow and accessibility. And this will be needed for the 45,000 capacity crowds at Baylor's McLane Stadium and with the increased visitation brought by planned improvements to the Ranger Museum.

Planners estimate as many as 20,000 persons may be exploring the area around McLane Stadium on game days. New foot bridges and walkways along with the existing River Walk will bring them to the doorstep of the Hall of Fame and Museum.

This bodes well for efforts to find corporate and private benefactors for Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ improvements and Texas Ranger Association Foundation programs.

The planned multistory Texas Ranger Heritage Building™ will be seen by over a 100 million drivers on I-35

each year and fans at McLane Stadium games and events. This hard-to-match visibility that will certainly appeal to a sponsor.

TRAF will benefit by its association and increased exposure. The combination of a state museum dedicated to a Texas legend and the newest collegiate stadium in the country will lead to other development up and down the Brazos.



TEXAS RANGER Museum Director Byron Johnson stands with Texas Ranger Foundation Association Chairman Danny Chandler following TRAF's presentation of a \$30,000 check to the museum. Proceeds of the check are to be used for the Retired Texas Rangers exhibition at the museum.

Multiple transfers in Ranger Companies



MAJOR BRIAN BURZYNSKI
Captain Brian Burzynski has been promoted to Major in Co. D, stationed in Weslaco.



CAPTAIN VICTOR ESCALON
Lt. Victor Escalon, Co. D in Laredo has been elevated to captain, headquarters in Austin.



LT. KIP WESTMORELAND
Ranger Kip Westmoreland, Co. A, Richmond, has been promoted to lieutenant in Tyler.



LT. JAMIE DOWNS
Ranger Jamie Downs, Co. C in Canyon has been promoted to lieutenant in Co. F, Waco.



LT. MATT LINDEMANN
Ranger Matt Lindemann, Co. F, promoted to lieutenant in Co. F, Northwest Austin.



LT. JASON DUDLEY
Ranger Jason Dudley, Co. C in Pampa, promoted to lieutenant in Co. E, El Paso.



LT. WENDE WAKEMAN
On Aug. 1, Ranger Wende Wakeman, Co. A, Conroe, will promote to lieutenant, Co. D, Laredo.



LT. KENNETH BOND
On Aug. 1, Ranger Kenneth Bond, Co. B in Mount Pleasant, will promote to lieutenant Co. E, Midland.

Additionally, Ranger Valentin Ceniceros, Co. E, El Paso, will transfer to Co. A, Houston; Ranger Gary Phillips, Co. F, Northwest Austin, transferred to Co. F, Georgetown; Ranger Ryan Clendennen, Co. C, Graham, transferred to Co. A, Beaumont; and Ranger Pete Luna, Co. A, Houston, transferred to Co. A, Richmond.



RETIRED RANGERS Ralph Wadsworth and Ronnie Brownlow have a time to catch up on each other's activities during the Reunion Weekend.



RETIRED RANGERS Tom Davis and Mark Leger renew old friendships at the annual Ranger Reunion Weekend in June in Waco.



RETIRED RANGER Captain Barry Caver presents a corsage to Barbara Priest, wife of the late Ranger Jesse Priest, during Friday night's dinner in Waco.