



# TEXAS RANGER

ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

## NEWSLETTER

www.thetexasrangers.org • March 2015 • Issue 10

## SEAL/Astronaut Cassidy to speak at reunion dinner

By Bill Hartman

WACO (Sp) — Retired and active Texas Rangers and guests are in for a treat on Saturday night during the annual Retired Rangers Reunion Weekend June 19-20, sponsored by the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

The guest speaker will be U.S. Navy Captain Christopher “Chris” Cassidy, only the second SEAL/Astronaut to deploy to Afghanistan, and later, fly missions into space for our country.

He has made two trips to the International Space Station, one for a two-week delivery of equipment and additional scientific gear, and a second for six months when he represented the U.S. and traveled with two Soviet cosmonauts.

Both trips he was delivered aboard the Russian spacecraft Soyuz. Part of his pre-flight assignment for the six-month stay with the cosmonauts was to learn Russian. On both trips he also participated in multiple experimental space walks outside the ISS facility.

He became the 500th person in space and is the second SEAL to fly in space, following Commander William Shepherd, a veteran of four previous missions.

Cassidy is a native of Maine and graduated from the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, R.I. He then received a bachelor of science in mathematics from



**SEAL/Astronaut Captain Chris Cassidy**

## June reunion, golf schedule is coming

A schedule of events for the Annual Reunion Weekend, honoring retired Texas Rangers, and information on the Friday golf tournament will be completed in the next several weeks and mailed to all retired and active Rangers, plus Benefactors and other patrons and friends of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

The Reunion Weekend is June 19-20 in Waco. Friday night is when all retired Rangers are singled out. This year, rather than honor an individual retired Ranger, all Rangers who were involved with the Branch Davidian Siege investigation at Mount Carmel in 1993 will be highlighted.

Last year’s golf tournament was played with temporary greens, and the report this year is the new greens are in excellent shape, and rolling where you hit them.

Saturday night’s speaker is U.S. Navy Captain Chris Cassidy, who in 10 years duty as a Navy SEAL served four six-month assignments in Afghanistan, in the Persian Gulf and in the Mediterranean.

The last 10 years he has been on active duty as a U.S. Astronaut, and has been to the International Space Station twice, once for two weeks, and once for six months.

*Astronaut continued page 6*

# TRAF nominates new officers

New officers for the Texas Ranger Association Foundation were nominated at the annual winter meeting, and barring unforeseen changes, will take office at the Annual Reunion Weekend celebration June 19-20 in Waco.

Jim Chionsini is serving as interim chairman after replacing Danny Chandler, who resigned for personal reasons in mid-December.

Chionsini will begin a two-year term as chairman in June. Other new officers are Constance White of Houston, vice-chairman; Tom Schleier of Seguin, secretary; and David Wilson of Ozona, treasurer. Gary Crawford rounds out the executive committee as the immediate past chairman.

The new chairman is a longtime newspaper publisher and owner and is chairman of Granite Publications, L.L.C., which publishes 24 semi-weekly and weekly newspapers in Texas.

Jim grew up in LaMarque and began his newspaper career at the Galveston Daily News in 1970, following a stint in the U.S. Navy.

He started a forerunner company

to Granite in 1978, and began purchasing newspapers. He and his wife Macy live in San Angelo and have a blended marriage with four children, sons James and J.T., daughters Jennifer and Brandi and 10 grandchildren.

Jim has been on the TRAF board 10 years and on the executive committee six years. Former Ranger Chief Kirby Dendy sponsored Jim to become a Benefactor as well as a board member.

Constance is a native of Roswell, N.M. and a graduate of the University of Arkansas. She moved to Texas in 1982 to join

Spindletop International and met her first Texas Rangers, Captains Grady Sessums and Dan North.

She is now executive director of Spindletop International, Inc., a charity representing companies in the oil and gas industry supporting various youth organizations. Spindletop has also been a longtime supporter of TRAF.

In 2000, then Company A Captain Earl Pearson nominated Constance to the TRAF board. In 2003 she was selected chairman of the scholarship committee, which she still heads, and she has been on the executive committee the past two years as secretary.

Schleier is president of Thomas W. Schleier and Associates, a land services company for oil and gas exploration. He's been

*Officers continued page 10*



**Jim Chionsini**



**Constance White**



**Tom Schleier**

‘Texas Ranger Classic’ –

## TRAF sporting clays shoot May 29

In lieu of a 2015 gala, the Texas Ranger Association Foundation is scheduling regional fund-raising activities, beginning with a May 29 “Texas Ranger Classic” sporting clays shoot at the National Shooting Complex on the northwest side of San Antonio.

Tom Schleier of Seguin, the incoming TRAF secretary, is the director in charge of the event. In addition to approval by TRAF, the shooting event has been given the green light by Major Chance Collins of Company F and Ranger Chief Randy Prince.

Former Chief Hank Whitman and directors Jerry Wellborn and Dave Wilson are also assisting Schleier.

The complex is the headquarters for the National Skeet

Shooting Association and the National Sporting Clays Association. The facility has five sporting clay courses and is capable of handling a large number of shooters.

It is the second largest venue in the United States and is a great attraction for both shooters and non-shooters who have never seen a competition.

A schedule of entry fees, including four-man teams, is being compiled, as well as costs for sponsorships for individuals and corporations.

A meal will be served following the competition.

A flyer with all the details is being put together and will be mailed to the entire TRAF mailing list within the next three weeks.

# Gray McWhorter is a TRAF original

*(Editor's note: This is the second in a series highlighting directors of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. The background is compiled and written by Liz Myrick and Bill Hartman.)*

Gray McWhorter, a veteran member of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation board of directors, places great worth on character traits he looks for in others.

"I value a person who tries to help his fellow man and his family in everyday life, who has a happy Christian attitude and who has the ability to listen fast but be slow to get angry," Gray said.

A financial supporter of the Texas Rangers since 1976, McWhorter was an organizing director. He served as chairman from 2001 to 2003 and has been on the executive, nominating and gift committees and presently is on the historical committee.

He's a native of Winnsboro, lived in Dallas 35 years and moved to Pittsburg in 1998 where he and wife Ann call home.

Gray said he began assisting a Texas Ranger and his wife in 1976. When TRAF was organized in 1982, he was nominated by Captain G.W. Burks, Glenn Elliott and Charlie Moore to become the first director in Company B.

Counting his time working with the Ranger family, he's been involved



**Gray McWhorter**

from 1976 to 2015, 39 years.

McWhorter received a MS degree in geology from Baylor University, and after graduation went to work for General American Oil Co. in Dallas.

Soon after going to work in Dallas, he married Miss Ann McMillen in 1960.

The McWhorters have been married 54 years, and have a daughter Raneé Kendrick and her husband, John, who live in Fort Worth.

Ann and Gray have two grandsons, Brett and Drew Kendrick, who live in Forney and Rowlette, respectively.

Gray left the oil business and went to work for Wyeth Pharmaceutical, serving as a territory representative and retiring after 35 years.

During that career he was selected for the A.H. Robins Regional President Award and also selected

Texas Pharmacy Association Outstanding Representative of the Year.

Don't ask Gray what he does in his spare time, because his calendar is awfully tight.

In addition to his TRAF service, he is vice-president of Camp and Upshur County Ambulance Service in Pittsburgh, is on the James Whatley Board of the Northeast Texas Community College in Mount Pleasant and serves on the board of the Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Museum in Pittsburg.

Also, he is a director of the Leesburg Cemetery in Winnsboro, a past chairman of the trustee committee and staff parish committee of the First United Methodist Church in Pittsburg and is a 59-year member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish

Rite (32nd KCCH) and Hella Shrine Temple.

His interest in the Texas Rangers didn't really start in 1976, but rather as a teenager, when he began to study the history of the country's oldest law enforcement agency. "I'm happy to say I've given many talks to civic organizations about the history of the Rangers, whom I consider the finest law officers in the state, country and world."

Gray's favorite reason for being a member of the foundation has been his fellowship with people who share his same interest and who believe in the history, honor and dignity of our state law enforcement.

"Every Texas Ranger I have known has been a pleasure in my life, and the TRAF directors and what they stand for have certainly impacted my life," he said.

Gray doesn't have family members who have been or are Rangers, but "some of my best friends have been, including Captain M.T. Gonzauillas, Captain Bob Mitchell, Frank Kemp, Glenn Elliott and Max Womack."

When asked what he tells potential Benefactors, McWhorter said, "Outside of church and family, the TRAF is one of the finest organizations anyone could join.

Everybody has a touch of 'cowboy' in their lives and they would be proud to be a member of our foundation."

**McWhorter continued page 14**

## Interim Chairman's Report -

## Talent, friendships run deep in TRAF

By Jim Chionsini

TRAF Interim Chairman



Jim Chionsini

I've volunteered for a position I've preached about not doing for more years than I can remember.

I've always encouraged our company's employees to work on community committees, even head them, and volunteer time and money to worthy charities and military needs.

But I wasn't so sure about non-profit organizations. I was always taught you needed to make money to have a successful operation.

I remember a book written some years ago about small newspapers entitled, "It Isn't About the Money."

I was even asked if I wanted to write a statement for the book's back cover. When I told the caller that newspapers I had anything to do with had to make money, the phone went dead.

If you don't make a healthy profit,

how can you afford to help a worthy project or a person in need? That was before I became so intimately involved with the Texas Ranger Association Foundation and the Texas Rangers it serves.

About 11 or 12 years ago, Captain Kirby Dendy invited me to become a TRAF Benefactor. A few years later, he asked if I'd agree to serve on the board of directors.

Eventually, I was asked to be a member of the executive committee and readily consented without really knowing what was required. As the years eased by, I moved up the ladder and my palms began sweating.

It was great fun and rewarding to work on the sidelines for leaders such as Benny Vanecek, Bubba Hudson, Steve Sikes, Gary Crawford and Danny Chandler.

I kept thinking I still had plenty of time to prepare for the top spot or find someone better to step in and take my position.

Then, unexpectedly, Danny resigned because of personal issues, and the chairmanship (interim) was

staring at me.

To be the lead person, responsible for an organization which serves the Texas Rangers, gave me pause for worry and concern. Someone even used the word daunting, which I suppose means scary.

However, when I evaluated the strengths of the TRAF board, what the directors bring to the table, their commitment to this fine organization, the backing of the Ranger leaders and TRAF's mission, my fears began subsiding and a desire to continue the tradition so many have worked for strengthened my commitment.

Once again I realized what a great and humbling experience it has been to work around and for the Texas Rangers.

I consider it an honor just to be a member of TRAF, let alone the chairman. The friendships I have made over the years and the wonderful rewards that come with this organization are staggering.

To be around the men and women of TRAF and the Ranger organization is exhilarating. I'm going to give the

*Chairman continued page 11*

---

## Directors elevated to emeritus status

Four longtime members of the board of directors of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation have retired from active duty on the board and elevated to "Director Emeritus" status.

To attain emeritus status, a director must have served a minimum of 10 years. They maintain all privileges of the board except voting. They are invited to attend all board and TRAF functions and voice their opinions as they like.

The new retirees are E.E. "Bubba" Hudson, Company A; Danny Chandler, Company B; Michael Lam, Company F; and Tom Lacy, Company F. Hudson is from Houston, Chandler from Dallas, Lam from Gatesville and Lacy from Waco.

Both Hudson and Chandler are past chairmen of TRAF.

Chandler was to be chairman of the foundation through June, but asked to be relieved of his duties due to matters of a family medical nature in his personal life that needed focus.

"All four of these men have sacrificed great amounts of time and energy to our organization," interim chairman Jim Chionsini said. "We want them to know how much we appreciate them and the attention they paid to our Texas Rangers and to TRAF."

"We hope they know how serious we are in inviting their participation in any and all future TRAF activities."

The four retired directors will be honored and receive commemorative plaques at the June Texas Ranger Reunion Weekend.



**JOE DILLARD** (second from left) was high bidder for the Battleship Texas Commemorative Pistol at the Spindletop Charities Holiday auction. He's with Company A Texas Rangers (l-r) Daron Parker, Major Jeff Collins and Shane Ellison. Proceeds were donated to the TRAF scholarship fund.

## Company A, Spindletop partner up to increase awareness, scholarships

For several years, Company A Texas Rangers and Spindletop Charities, Inc. have partnered to raise funds for the Texas Ranger Association Foundation scholarship fund through a high bid auction during the annual Spindletop Holiday Ball.

In 2014, two firearms were donated to the auction; a Battleship Texas Commemorative Model of the original .45 caliber sidearm issued to USS Texas in 1911, and a Bond Arms Derringer Pistol and Knife commemorating the anniversary of the Texas Rangers.

Through this auction, more than \$28,000 was

donated to TRAF in 2014. In the past five years, the organization's auction has raised more than \$150,000 for TRAF scholarships through the auction of special firearms.

Spindletop Charities, Inc. is a non-profit in the oil and gas industry based in Houston, which raises generous funds for youth charities.

In 2014 alone, Spindletop donated more than \$1.2 million to aid children.

The Texas Rangers also volunteer their time to provide security for this formal event, which is attended by more than 350 oil and gas industry executives and their spouses.



**LILLIAN GAITHER** and her family made the high bid for the Texas Ranger Commemorative Derringer pistol and knife set at the Spindletop Holiday Ball auction in December. Proceeds went to the TRAF scholarship fund. Company A Ranger Jeff Owles helps show off the set.

## Executive Director's report --

**TRAF re-energized with goals, visions**

Liz Myrick

By Liz Myrick, TRAF Executive Director

We've just come away from the annual Winter Conference. I hope all left with the same sense of optimism that I've been hearing from so many of the attendees.

There was an extraordinarily positive energy throughout the weekend. With new leadership within the Texas Rangers and changes within TRAF's board, it was a great opportunity to get better acquainted individually, and to revisit the genesis and the merits of this long-standing relationship.

In doing so, I heard expressed many times a deep appreciation of those who had the vision for this

partnership 33 years ago, and all the hard work of those visionaries.

With such a history, and an abiding reverence for it, the future holds much promise. In looking towards the future of TRAF, we endeavor to listen to the needs of the retired and active Texas Rangers and guide our ship by their star.

The goals of TRAF are scholarships, support and outreach for retired Rangers, the compassionate emergency fund and education initiatives.

These goals require continuous funding and support. This means expanding our donor base, diversifying our fundraising efforts, and asking our ongoing supporters to consider doing more to support the Texas Rangers.

With deliberation and foresight,

we are working hard to develop the infrastructure in our operations that will allow us to continue to make a difference.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank Danny Chandler for his chairmanship since 2013.

I was personally blessed to have had my basic training at TRAF under his tutelage. He's taught me many invaluable things about the Rangers and this organization, and about life.

The generosity of Danny and his wife, Elizabeth, to TRAF has been virtually boundless and has often gone under the radar, as is his style. And they have been especially kind to me.

The timing in my life and the depth of this unique relationship make it one for which I could not be more grateful.

*Astronaut cont. from page 1...*

the U.S. Naval Academy in 1993.

Later, during a shore assignment with the Navy, Chris also received a master's degree in ocean engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2000.

Upon joining the Navy, Chris graduated from BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition School) and served 10 years active duty with the Navy SEALs.

He made four, six-month deployments, two to Afghanistan and two to the Mediterranean Sea.

He deployed to Afghanistan two weeks

after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on U.S. soil.

He served as ground force commander for international and U.S.-only combat missions in Afghanistan and led two months of non-compliant ship boardings in the Persian Gulf.

As a naval commander, he amassed over 200 hours underwater as a pilot-navigator commander of flooded submersibles, which were launched and retrieved from host submarines.

Chris was awarded the Bronze Star for leading a 9-day operation at the

Zhawar Kili cave complex at the Afghan/Pakistan border and a second Bronze Star for combat leadership service in 2004 during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

After 10 years as a SEAL, he was selected as an astronaut candidate in 2004. His first mission was in 2009, followed by his six-month stint at the space station in 2013.

As a SEAL delivery vehicle Team Two commander, he volunteered and completed a week-long, 180-mile charity kayak paddle from Norfolk, Va., to Washington

to raise funds for the Special Ops Warrior Foundation.

This exceptional soldier-athlete also finished near the top of his age division in 2014 in the famous Hawaiian Iron Man Triathlon.

On a more personal note, Captain Cassidy has a daughter who is a junior at MIT as an engineering student, another daughter who's a senior in high school and a son who's a sophomore in high school.

Chris has additional ambitions as an astronaut, one of which is going back into space in two or three years "aboard a U.S.-built delivery spacecraft."

# Texas Rangers announce latest staff changes

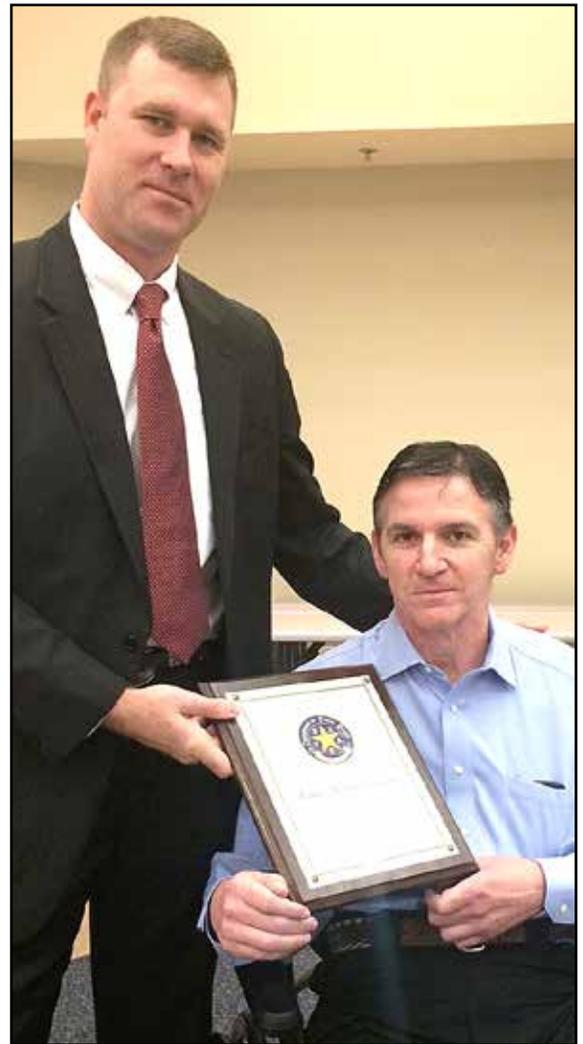
Since the last TRAF newsletter, there have been a number of Texas Ranger division changes announced by leadership at the Austin headquarters.

- Lt. Jason Taylor (Company A Houston) has been promoted to Administrative Captain at Austin Headquarters.
- Lt. Kip Westmoreland has been transferred from Company B Tyler to Company A Houston.
- Lt. Kenneth Bond transferred from Company E Midland to Company B Tyler.
- Ranger Scotty Shiver, Company A, was promoted to lieutenant, Company E in Midland in December.
- Gregory Wilson has been promoted to the Texas Rangers and assigned to Company B Mount Pleasant.
- Ranger Shane Ellison has transferred within Company A from Hempstead to Houston.
- Ranger Jeff Owles transferred within Company A from Houston to Hempstead.
- Ranger Ryan Christian transferred from Company D Corpus Christi to Company A Houston.
- Ranger Rolando Villarreal Jr. transferred within Company D from Harlingen to Welasco.

Lt. James Scoggins of Company F Waco has changed job duties. He is now the "Unsolved Crime Program Lead."

Scoggins was also presented his 10-year certificate by Company F Major Chance Collins in a ceremony at company headquarters in Waco.

Scoggins, returning to duty after being injured in a motorcycle accident, was also presented a customized Springfield 1911 .45-calibre pistol purchased for him by current and retired Rangers and several members of the TRAF board.



*MAJOR CHANCE Collins of Company F presents a 10-year certificate to Lt. James Scoggins at a ceremony at F headquarters in Waco. Collins also presented Scoggins a customized Springfield 1911 .45-calibre pistol purchased on his behalf by current and retired Rangers and members of TRAF. Scoggins has resumed new duties with Company F after returning from a motorcycle accident.*



*Jason Taylor*



*Gregory Wilson*



*Scotty Shiver*

# Lil' Rustlers a favorite outing for Company A Texas Rangers

Each year, a group of Texas Rangers from Company A have a special job volunteering at the Lil' Rustlers Rodeo held during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The young contestants, who have disabilities, participate in a variety of events such as barrel races with stick horses, steer roping (the "steer" is a friendly-looking head mounted on a bale of hay), bull riding (the "bull" is a big, plush see-saw rocked by cowboys) and live horse rides.

The thrills and smiles are all genuine, especially when their cowboys are Texas Rangers.

This volunteer event has been a tradition with Company A, accompanied by one of their TRAF directors, Constance White, for the past 15 years.

"It's a great privilege for us to spend time with God's special children during the rodeo. They touch everyone's heart," Ranger Jeff Owles said.

After the Lil' Rustlers Rodeo, the Rangers and Constance rode in the Houston Rodeo grand entry, which opened an entertaining evening at the professional rodeo and concert.



*RANGER PETE Luna shared time with his Lil' Rustler, Lucy*



*RANGER JEFF Wolf compared boots with his Lil' Rustler, Robert*



*RANGERS DARON Parker and Jeff Owles got to enjoy the Lil' Rustler Rodeo with their friend, Jordyn*

# 39 students enjoy TRAF Scholarships

Each edition of the TRAF Newsletter, we highlight recipients of Texas Ranger Association Foundation scholarships, which are under the direction of the scholarship committee headed by chairman Constance White.

There are deadlines the students, all children of active Texas Rangers, must meet for applying for scholarships for both semesters and they must maintain a "C" grade point average per semester. A student can receive \$2,000 per semester.

During the fall 2014 semester, there were 39 full-time students receiving a total of \$78,000 worth of scholarships and three part-time students receiving scholarships between \$1,000 and \$1,500, depending on scholastic hours. The scholarship total for the fall 2014 semester was \$81,675.

The spring 2015 semester estimate was 41 full-time students for a scholarship total of \$82,000.

Our four featured participants this edition are Autumn Savannah Patton, Travis Michael DeLuna, Trenton Dwayne Pettigrew and Chandler Rae Davidson.

## **Autumn Patton**

Autumn is a sophomore at Collin College where she plans to major in biology. She is the daughter of Texas Ranger Victor Patton, Company B. She's a member of Phi Theta Kappa and volunteers at Hope's Door, an organization empowering victims of domestic violence to break the cycle of abuse.

Autumn said, "I would like to extend my gratitude towards everyone who has helped my college career move forward. My family and I are so grateful."

## **Travis DeLuna**

Travis is a senior at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. He will graduate in May with an academic major in biomedical science. He has been a volunteer at the Muscular Dystrophy Camp in Aransas Pass, as well as St. Peter's Catholic Church in Corpus. He's the son of Texas Ranger Antonio DeLuna, Company D.

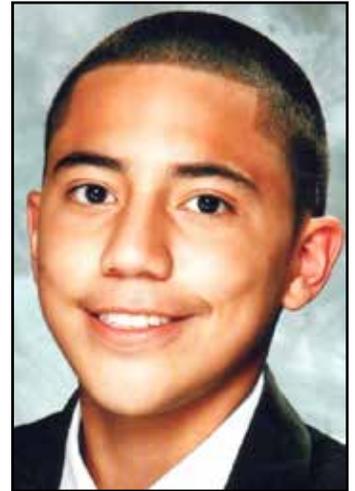
Travis said, "I would like to extend my sincerest, heartfelt thank you for the blessings you've bestowed on me with this scholarship. I appreciate what you do for Texas Ranger families around this great state."

## **Trenton Pettigrew**

Trenton is a sophomore attending Texas A&M University at College Station where he is a member of the A&M Corps – Naval ROTC. His major is wildlife and fisheries



**Autumn Patton**



**Travis DeLuna**



**Trenton Pettigrew**



**Chandler Davidson**

sciences. Trenton is the son of Texas Ranger Ronald Pettigrew, Company B.

Trenton said, "Your financial generosity has allowed me to continue striving towards my goals of obtaining a great education and serving my country in the U.S. Navy. I am grateful to have been awarded this scholarship."

## **Chandler Davidson**

Chandler is a junior attending the University of North Texas. She plans to major in psychology. She is the daughter of Texas Ranger A.P. Davidson, Company B.

Chandler said, "Because of this scholarship, I will be able to work less and concentrate more on school. Your generosity is admirable and has benefitted me in many ways. I hope to one day have as positive an impact on someone else's life that this Foundation has had on mine."

## Museum report -

# Life after 50... Ranger Hall of Fame, Museum

By **Byron Johnson,**  
**Director Texas Ranger Museum**



**Byron Johnson**

What's ahead after a golden anniversary and four-plus million visitors? Over the last five years there have been almost \$6 million in improvements.

The Texas Rangers have a new Co. "F" Headquarters. The adjoining Bob Mitchell Education Center serves DPS and regional nonprofits. The Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center is America's first dedicated law enforcement library and archives.

And, the venerable Knox Center banquet hall has been renovated. These projects were made possible by Benefactors, the City of Waco and State of Texas and will springboard us into the 2023 Texas Ranger Bicentennial™.

In 2013 the Texas Public Safety Commission appointed the TRHFM steward of the Bicentennial. The major goal is to improve and modernize the Hall of Fame and Museum. The heart of these improvements is a new and immersive Texas Ranger experience for visitors.

To "get the history right" a panel of eminent scholars and authors of Ranger history has been recruited to serve as Texas Ranger Laureates.

They have authored over two dozen of the recent books on Ranger history. Active and retired Rangers have offered their insight into every aspect of the modern and

current Ranger service.

Together with the TRHFM staff, this "think tank" is planning exhibits and programs offering an exciting view of America's oldest state law enforcement agency.

How do we craft a product from this story? Assuming one already "knows" is fraught with pitfalls. Studying and understanding our audiences, their vision and needs is crucial.

Thankfully, Baylor University marketing and communications department has joined with us in this complex endeavor. The TRHFM has a bewildering diversity of audiences—Rangers and Ranger descendants, teachers and students, researchers, Texas natives, foreign visitors and the young and old.

Each has different and unexpected desires. Baylor has set out to survey, interview and conduct focus groups with each of these audiences. We want to present the heritage of the 19th and 20th centuries with 21st century tools in a manner tailored to each audience.

How does TRAF fit in? Discussions are underway exploring how we may expand our partnership. For more than 30 years, TRAF and the TRHFM have worked together to serve the Rangers and celebrate their heritage. Both partners have reached historical milestones.

Resources will determine how far we can go. By combining resources, and with the impetus of the Texas Ranger Bicentennial™, both organizations will have a bright future of service.



### Officers cont. from page 2...

in the oil and gas business 32 years.

His TRAF board membership represents Company F, and he was sponsored by both Captain Gary de los Santos of Company D and Captain Tony Leal of Company A.

Tom is a native of Houston and he and his wife Judy have lived in Seguin 22 years. He has a grown daughter, Jacy, who lives in West Hollywood, and a son, Eric, a junior at Texas Tech University.

Wilson is owner and vice president of Lilly Construction, Inc., in Ozona, which has served West Texas since 1955.

His company has long been a leader in general oil field construction

and is a member of the Associated General Contractors of America.

Lilly specializes in Redi-Mix concrete, crane services, gas plant construction/ maintenance, pipeline installation/ maintenance and heavy hauling.

Prior to his 26 years with Lilly, Dave served in the U.S. Air Force. He and wife Jana live in Ozona and have three children and two grandchildren.

Dave's been involved with TRAF

since 2012.

Crawford is a longtime member of TRAF, as was his father before him. Crawford and wife Charlotte live in Fort Worth. He is a legend in TCU football lore.

He was TRAF chairman preceding Chandler, and returns to the executive committee for another two-year stint in the past-chairman's slot following Chandler's resignation.



**Dave Wilson**



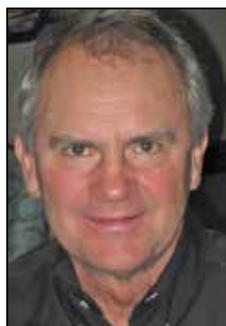
**Gary Crawford**

# Four new directors join TRAF

New directors were added to the board of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation at the annual winter meeting in Waco in early February.

The new members are John Palmer, Company B; Ken Olson, Company C; Rick Hernandez, Company D; and Carl Lambert, Company H.

Lambert lives in Hempstead and is a senior vice president with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. He is a native Houstonian, and outside of the business world, considers himself an experienced "wing shooter," having hunted all varieties of birds throughout the Western Hemisphere.



**Carl Lambert**

He and wife Victoria breed, buy, sell and show American Quarter horses in reining, reining cow horses and cutting horses. He's also involved in breeding and herd development of registered Brahman cattle.

Major J.D. Robertson and director Gary Crawford recommended Carl for the board.

Hernandez is a lifelong Texan and lives in McAllen with his wife Belinda, son Erick and daughter Abigail. He's a native of Laredo and was raised in Mirando City. After high school, he moved to Alice and later received a degree in criminal justice.



**Rick Hernandez**

Rick was on the Alice police force for 12 years as a patrolman, director of investigations and narcotics officer. He worked 11 years for WalMart in loss prevention and was promoted

to country director for loss prevention for Mexico.

In 2004 he joined H-E-B Co. as regional director of loss prevention and security and has oversight of H-E-B's profits and risk mitigation programs at over 100 stores in the U.S. and Mexico.

He has continued his ties with law enforcement and has developed friendships with several Texas Rangers. Major Brian J. Burzynski and director Gary Crawford recommended Rick for the board.

Palmer is vice president, investor relations with AT&T, Inc., joining the company in 1999. He has held numerous leadership positions, including roles in mobility, operations, sales, strategy and care.

John holds a bachelor's degree from Baylor University and a master's in business administration from the University of Dallas. He and his wife, Tara, live in Southlake and have twin daughters, Carolyn and Elizabeth and a son, John.



**John Palmer**

Olson is a project manager in infrastructure and safety training, Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service. He retired in 2006 as City of Lubbock Emergency Management Coordinator.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in education from Southwestern Oklahoma State University as well as a vocational teacher certification from Angelo State University. He is a Certified Public Works Professional. He's also a past president of the Greater Lubbock Chapter of Military Officers Assn. of America.

In his position with the City of Lubbock, he had a close relationship with the Lubbock police department,

Lubbock County sheriff's office and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Ken's wife, Charlene, has 31 years experience with the DPS as administrative assistant to the regional commander (13 years) and as administrative assistant with Company C (18 years).

Ken is particularly interested in supporting young people entering the higher education system. Major Tony Bennie and director Scott Egert recommended Ken to the board.

Members of the TRAF nominating committee are chairman Steve Sikes, Scott Egert, Tom Schleier and Benny Vanecek.



**Ken Olson**

---

*Chairman cont. from page 4...*

chairmanship my best shot and ask for your patience and continued support.

This has never been a one-man organization, and over my working years I have learned the values of putting the best people in responsible positions and let them do their assignments.

That's the only way I know how to work, so be ready for me to ask you to do something, and then step back and watch you do it.

I appreciate the support my family has given me as well. Hopefully, they are joking when they say all I do anymore is show up on payday and picnics, so I should have plenty of time to devote to TRAF.

We have tremendous opportunities as an organization and as a support group for the Rangers. With your help, we'll get it done.

## Obituaries -

## George Frazier

One of the most popular and compassionate Texas Rangers, George Frazier, 76, died in mid-November. Services were held in San Angelo.



**George Frazier**

In his retirement years, George, an ordained minister, is certain to be remembered for his outstanding direction and touching presentations at the annual Texas Ranger Memorial Services during reunion weekends each June in Waco.

George would either give the memorials himself, or find someone through the family to honor the passing of Rangers. He wore his title

of Texas Ranger Chaplain with honor.

Frazier lived in Coleman where he had his final ministerial assignment. A private burial was held in Gorman with his son, Pastor Russ Frazier, officiating. He had stepped down from his chaplain's assignment, but was in attendance at the reunion last June.

George was born in Gorman in 1938 to JD and Annie (Keese) Frazier. He attended high school in Odessa and worked for the Odessa Police Department seven years before joining the Texas Department of Public Safety as a highway patrolman.

In 1974 he was promoted to the Texas Rangers in Company E, where he remained until his retirement.

After retiring from the Rangers, he became an ordained minister in the Church of the Nazarene.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Faye Frazier; three sons, Russ Frazier and wife Leigh of San Angelo, Johnny Cole Frazier and wife Janet of Fort Worth and Scotty Frazier and wife Lisa of Big Spring; his sister, Bettie Kirk and husband George of Granby, Mo; brothers Tommy Frazier and wife Melva of Kirbyville and Jim Frazier and wife Danielle of Fulshear; nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Many extended family members and friends also survive.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his son, George Wayne Frazier and daughter, Debbie Frazier Moore.

## Newton Wright "Dub" Clark

A Texas lawman who began his career as a Texas Ranger in 1962 and ended his career as a Captain, Texas Rangers, assigned as the first Commander of the DPS Office of Internal Affairs, died in December at age 88.



**Captain Dub Clark**

Captain Newton Wright "Dub" Clark died peacefully in Holly Lake Ranch just a day before the beginning of 2015. He was born in Center and raised in the Antioch and James communities in Shelby County.

At the relatively young age of 16, he enrolled in what is now

Sam Houston State University where he received a scholarship to play football. In 1944 when the university suspended its athletic program, he joined the U.S. Navy and served in Europe and the Far East until after the end of World War II.

He began what he told people was his life's calling in 1950 when he graduated from the Texas Highway Patrol class No. 16 and was assigned to work in Crockett. He worked there until he was transferred to his hometown of Center where he and his partner, Russell Vineyard, served Shelby, San Augustine and Sabine counties for 12 years.

In 1962 he was promoted and assigned to the Texas Rangers, Company A, in San Augustine, serving the same three counties, plus any other localities that needed him.

He was promoted to sergeant and transferred to DPS Headquarters in 1974 where he served as assistant chief of criminal law enforcement. His promotion to Captain followed.

Friends and fellow Rangers remember Dub for his integrity, forthrightness and compassion. He has a long list of young lawmen he mentored over the years.

He was used as an example to others on how criminal investigation should be handled.



# Rangers graduate forensic academy

Five Texas Rangers are among graduates from the National Forensic Academy, held at the University of Tennessee.

The Rangers attended the 10-week academy at different intervals.

They received specialized training in multiple topics, including crime scene investigations, fingerprinting, death investigations and shooting reconstruction.

Every two years, the academy has a three-day symposium for NFA graduates in Nashville for refresher courses plus new developments in forensics science.

New symposium topics offered are on fatigue management, pathology of gunshot wounds, mass casualty investigations and new theories on fingerprinting.



*FIVE TEXAS Rangers have completed studies at the National Forensic Academy at the University of Tennessee. They are (l-r) Wende Wakeman, Company D; Mike Adcock, Company B; Don Stoner, Company B; Kevin Wright, Company F; and Roger Dixon, Company D.*

---

## Two benefactors hit distinguished level

The Texas Ranger Association Foundation is the beneficiary of two Distinguished Benefactors, a designation earned by a gift of \$10,000 to the foundation.

Bill Curtis, a retired captain in the U.S. Navy, and his wife Greta have an affiliation with TRAF dating back to 1995, when they met several Texas Rangers during an outing in Brenham. At that time,

they made a \$750 patron's contribution to TRAF.

They also previously made a \$5,000 contribution to gain a headquarters designation and in December made the \$10,000 Distinguished Benefactor gift.

The Curtises, who regularly attend TRAF functions, including the annual Reunion Weekend and the galas, have also been active in purchasing auction items. They reside in

Lakeway.

The second Distinguished Benefactor contribution was made by H-E-B Grocery Co. in the name of Rick Hernandez, who was elected to the TRAF board of directors in early February.

See a separate story on page 11 with a biography on Hernandez and the other three new directors in this edition.



**Bill Curtis**



**JERRY WELLBORN**, right, a director of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation, presents the Benefactor's certificate to Mickey and Kelly Baker, who live in Robert Lee. Wellborn has been one of the most active directors signing on new benefactors.

**LAURA HARTMAN**, wife of TRAF director Bill Hartman, presents certificates to new benefactors of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation, Clyde King, left, president of Hartman Newspapers, L.P. of Rosenberg and Lee Hartman, vice president of Hartman Newspapers and General Manager of the Fort Bend Herald.



**NEW COMPANY E** Benefactors Monica and Chad Reeves of San Angelo receive their TRAF certificate from director Jerry Wellborn. Jerry and fellow director Dave Wilson are in a neck-and-neck race to see who's the leader in the clubhouse on signing new Benefactor members to the organization.

★  
**McWhorter cont. from page 3...**

Even with his full slate of activities, Gray still finds time to enjoy competition skeet shooting, bass fishing and tournaments and continuing his history lessons on the Rangers.

He didn't hesitate a second when asked his favorite book, "the Bible," and his favorite movie, "Lonesome Dove."

His favorite memory he'll always carry of the TRAF: "Good people working together to show our appreciation for Texas Rangers and their families."

Gray has favorite sayings he suggests to everyone, "Think young and stay happy." He also recommends "dreaming in technicolor."

**Contributors to the TRAF Newsletter:**

- LIZ MYRICK, LIZ.MYRICK@THETEXASRANGERS.ORG
- CONSTANCE WHITE
- JIM CHIONSINI, JCHIONSINI@YAHOO.COM
- BILL HARTMAN, BHARTMAN@HARTMANNEWS.COM

**For address changes, call  
 254-752-1001**

## Chief Prince report --

# Rangers are busy across the state

By Randy Prince, Chief, Texas Rangers



**Randy Prince**

Greetings, from the Texas Rangers. It has been a busy first few months—with the varied duties and responsibilities—but we're privileged to work with so many dedicated and professional members of the Department of Public Safety.

Now that the 84th Legislative Session is in progress, select members of the division are reviewing proposed legislation to determine how bills would

affect law enforcement and the Department of Public Safety.

This essential bill review process is being undertaken by both Ranger headquarters and company commanders.

As many of you may recall, in 2013, Company F Texas Ranger Lt. James Scoggins was critically injured in an off-duty motorcycle accident.

His injuries left him with significant medical expenses and unable to return to work. The Texas Ranger Association Foundation played an important role in assisting the Scoggins family. We are now pleased to announce that James Scoggins has returned to duty as a highly advanced (senior-level) research specialist.

James will remain in Waco at the Company F Office and his work will involve overseeing the development, implementation, and monitoring of specialized research projects pertaining to unsolved crimes and case research for the Texas Ranger Division.

He will also examine and analyze unsolved homicide, missing persons and major crime investigation files.

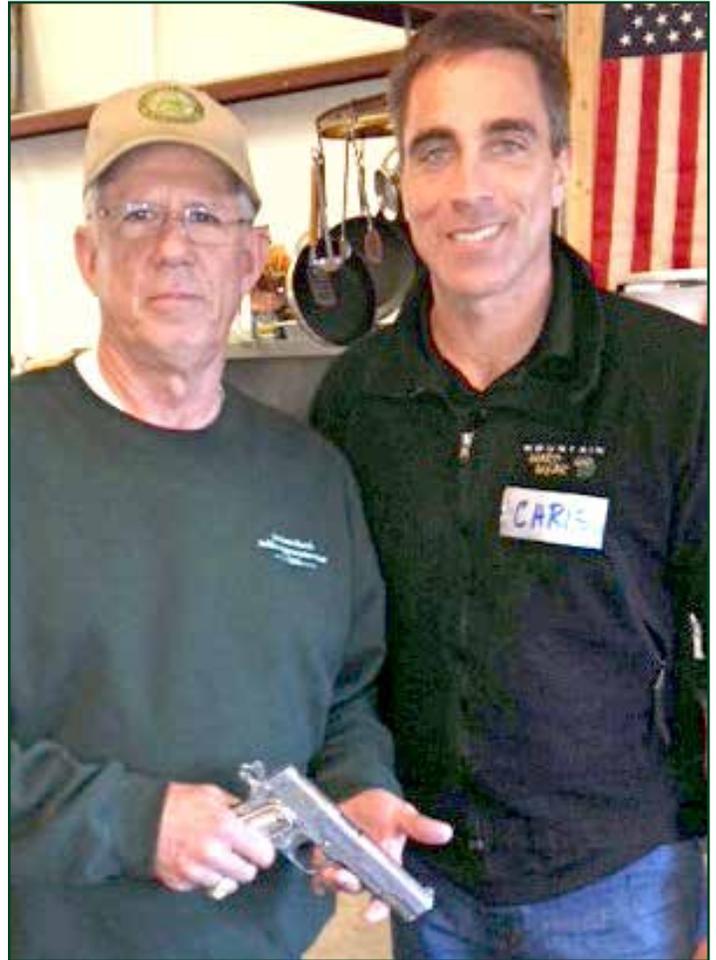
In December, a jury sentenced former Kaufman County Justice of the Peace Eric Williams to death for his role in the capital murder of Assistant District Attorney Mark Hasse.

Texas Rangers of Company B were significantly involved in the investigation as well as the presentment of testimony in trial, inclusive of punishment evidence regarding the acts of murder against Kaufman County District Attorney Mike McClelland and his wife Cynthia.

The death sentence was a testament to the fact that Texans will not tolerate cowards who would commit or contemplate such reprehensible acts.

As unconscionable as their murders were, what followed was an outstanding collaboration between numerous local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to investigate the facts and seek justice.

Texas Ranger Melba Molina received a "Partnership for Public Safety" Award from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Florida.



**RETIRED RANGER** Captain Richard Sweaney shows his retirement gift, a special personally engraved Colt 1911, .45-caliber pistol, to U.S. Navy Captain Chris Cassidy at a hunt for servicemen who have seen action in Afghanistan or Iraq. The hunt, held Dec. 5-6-7 at No Name Ranch in Christoval, was the 20th one sponsored by Patriot Outfitters, a volunteer outreach ministry sponsored by Main Street Baptist Church of Georgetown. The ranch is owned by TRAF chairman Jim Chionsini. Cassidy will be the special guest speaker Saturday night at the Retired Ranger Reunion Weekend in Waco.

Ranger Molina played an important role in a public corruption investigation in which the Hidalgo County Sheriff and many other public servants were convicted of money laundering and bribery that included a narcotics task force unit committing home invasion robberies and theft of drug trafficking currency.

Ranger Molina was nominated among many other law enforcement professionals across the United States but was selected as the sole recipient of the prestigious award.

*Chief continued page 16*

*Chief cont. from page 15...*

A vital function in the early days of the Texas Rangers was border security.

And it continues, with significant Ranger involvement in the ongoing border operation dubbed "Operation Strong Safety II."

There is ample and compelling evidence that the Texas-Mexico border is not secure, and this lack of security undermines public safety and homeland security in every region of the state.

A confluence of factors resulted in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas becoming the nation's epicenter of drug and human smuggling and trafficking.

The Texas legislature has recognized the importance and linkage of border security to public safety, and consistently, has dedicated substantial resources to increase capabilities at the border.

The DPS is on the front lines, and I applaud the dedication of our personnel and the unwavering support of their families.

The Department is on the front lines of national security battling human smuggling, child exploitation

and transnational drug trafficking organizations operating along the Mexican border.

I applaud the dedication of the division personnel and the unwavering support of their families.

The Texas Ranger Division strives to deliver a high degree of service in an unbiased manner.

We engage in continuous learning and are committed to performing our work with the highest degree of honesty, integrity and professionalism.

In doing so, one of the most important duties as a Texas Ranger is investigating crime scenes.

And, as an example of our commitment to excellence, our Crime Scene Investigation Working Group (CSIWG) has established affirmative steps to seek and improve our crime scene investigation activities.

This working group is comprised of one Ranger from each company with Texas Ranger Troy Wilson as the chairperson.

In January, 2015, the CSIWG held a Basic Bloodstain Pattern Analysis Class in Waco. This class marks the fifth class and 93 Rangers have attended.

The basic bloodstain class is

certified through the International Association for Bloodstain Pattern Analysts.

Texas Rangers are one of the few, if not the only agency around the nation which provides bloodstain pattern analysis training for each of our violent crime investigators.

Also, we have begun the process of sending nine Rangers to various shooting incident reconstruction and officer involved shooting classes held by the nation's leading authorities in these subjects.

The Rangers will develop and deliver this training to the division two times a year until every Ranger has attended the class.

The anticipated inaugural class will be sometime in the fall of 2015.

I again would like to thank the Texas Ranger Association Foundation for the outstanding commitment in perpetuating the history of the Texas Rangers.

This close knit organization has supported retired and active Rangers since its inception and continues to do so through the actions of its dedicated members.

Until next time—God bless.

**New**

**FOR OUR BENEFACTORS:**

**OUTER WINDOW TEXAS RANGER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION**

**WINDOW DECALS – \$5<sup>00</sup> EACH**



**ORDER BY MAIL OR PHONE**

**Texas Ranger Association Foundation**

**104 Texas Ranger Trail • Waco, TX 76706**

**254-752-1001**