



# TEXAS RANGER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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## Deaths of officers spiral up – Chief thanks TRAF, others for support

By Randy Prince, Chief, Texas Rangers



Randy Prince

As I write, I am reviewing a list of almost 90 police officers from across the country killed in the line of duty so far in 2015— 26 of those from gunfire. Nine on this list are Texas peace officers.

The law enforcement profession has always been inherently dangerous due to many factors including actions that must be taken to apprehend violent criminals.

Negative interactions with the public can come from monotonous traffic stops, to a crash scene investigation, or high-risk arrests involving drug traffickers and career criminals.

In August, a Louisiana State Trooper was killed by a motorist upon arriving at the scene of a one-vehicle traffic crash.

In September, a Kentucky State Trooper was killed while attempting to find a hotel, in lieu of taking the assailant to jail for a suspended driver license.

However, the most recent and alarming trend of “ambush” attacks on police officers is perhaps fueled by images of police corruption and abuses and the deteriorating respect for authority.

Examples of these cowardly attacks include the two New York City police officers that were killed while sitting in their squad car and a Las Vegas police officer shot as he and his partner sat in their marked police car at a traffic light.

Perhaps most notable is the recent assassination of Harris County Sheriff’s Deputy Darren Goforth, who was shot to death as he fueled his patrol car at a convenience store.

Law enforcement unfortunately has always had isolated

*Chief continued page 4*

## 3 more TRAF scholarship winners are highlighted

With each edition of the TRAF Newsletter, we highlight at least three of our scholarship winners. This time we’re introducing Andi D’Lynn Breeding, Sage Tristen Smith and Kristin Faith Torrez.

Andi is a freshman at Midland College and plans to major in dental hygiene. She is a graduate of Monahans High School and is the daughter of Texas Ranger Phillip Breeding, Co. E.

“Words cannot adequately express my appreciation for the opportunity provided to me

*Scholarships continued page 9*



Sage Smith



Andi Breeding



Kristin Torrez

## Houston rodeo OKs TRAF grant

The Texas Ranger Association Foundation has received approval from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo of a TRAF grant request.

The amount is \$25,000 for education outreach initiatives and operations. This is the second year the Houston Rodeo has approved the request.

“We are delighted and thankful to the Houston Rodeo group for making this possible,” TRAF chairman Jim Chionsini said.

“They have hundreds of requests and do a wonderful job of helping programs such as ours plus their own huge scholarship fund.”

# Co. E shoot is Oct. 17 in San Angelo

Directors and volunteers from Texas Ranger Association Foundation and Texas Rangers Co. E have scheduled their first annual clay bird shoot fundraiser for Oct. 17 in San Angelo.

All proceeds will be used to assist funding the TRAF scholarship program. TRAF is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization.

The shoot will be staged at the San Angelo Claybird Association's facility at 12026 U.S. Highway 67S.

Directors Jerry Wellborn and Dave Wilson are heading the day-long program. Registration begins at 8 a.m., and shooting starts at 9:30 a.m.

Others on the planning committee are Jim Chionsini, Trish Aldridge, Josh Tanner, Danny Updike, Ranger Lt. Chris Clark and Rangers Nick Hannah and Tod Reid.

Information regarding sponsorship levels, registration forms and auction donation forms can be obtained from



Trish Aldridge at 325-374-2329 (trish.f.aldridge@gmail.com) or by calling Wellborn (325-763-7859), Wilson (325-226-3650) or the TRAF office (254-752-1001).

One of the top prizes available during the day is a Henry Golden Boy .45 calibre Colt rifle. For information on this rifle, contact Wellborn.

Among the auction items are a 3-day, 2-night stay at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas and two round-trip tickets courtesy of Southwest Airlines.

Other items are a .243 rifle, courtesy of TX Guns'N' Stuff, a 50-quart Bison Cooler, courtesy of Bison and a 14-kt gold and sterling silver custom Texas Ranger tie pin, courtesy of Ranger Jeffrey Vajdos and made by Holland's Jewelry in San Angelo.

"We hope you'll come to San Angelo and enjoy our special event and help support our nation's oldest law enforcement agency," Wellborn said. "It's going to be great fun!"

# Co. D sporting clay shoot Nov. 7

Texas Ranger Classic Co. D sporting clay tournament is on the calendar for Nov. 7 in Edinburg in South Texas. The planning committee is made up of Rangers and TRAF directors, and they've been busy for the last month lining up sponsors and gift packages.

In addition to the team shooting, one of the highlights of the day will be a barbecue dinner with Chef Hank Whitman, former Ranger Chief, in charge of the cooking.

Proceeds will go to the Texas Ranger Association Foundation for scholarships and assistance to Ranger families in need.

Guests are not only invited, but encouraged by the planning committee. Tickets for guests coming to the dinner and dance are only \$20 per person. A cocktail reception will be held with the dinner.

Clay shooting is a sport for the entire family. The Texas Classic is a sporting clay tournament, which replicates all



types of shotgunning from the field, such as flushing, crossing, incoming and other angling shots.

The shooting will be held at Mi Ranchita Shooting Clays in Edinburg. The Rangers and TRAF have arrangements with Double Tree Suites by Hilton in McAllen (956-686-3000).

Shooting courses are laid out in natural surroundings and typically include 10 stations with shooters on the move to complete the course. Sporting clays is an internationally recognized sports event. It's often

called "golf with a shotgun."

Prizes available for shooters and guests alike include a Co. D belt buckle, a Colt 1911 38 super government pistol with Stag grips inlaid with a Texas Ranger star, Beretta over/under 12-gauge shotgun, Benelli automatic 12-gauge shotgun, custom mesquite sofa table with hidden shotgun drawer, one of a kind Texas Ranger Bowie knife with cinco pesos and custom made silver Texas Ranger ring.

Members of the steering committee include Chief (Retired) Hank Whitman, TRAF directors Rick Hernandez, Steve LaMantia and Trey Martinez, Major Brian Burzynski, Lts. Rick Rivera, Corey Lain and Wende Wakeman. Event planner Lacy Jemmott is also on the committee.

Information on entering, reservations, prizes, donations, sponsorships and directions can be obtained at the TRAF office in Waco (254-752-1001).

Represents Co. E –

# Foreman's a 28-year TRAF veteran

*(Editor's note: This is the third in a series highlighting directors of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.)*

**By Bill Hartman**  
**TRAF Editor**

When Luther V. "Vern" Foreman's not hard at work running his family's Foreman Electric Service Co., he's got his hand in something to do with the betterment of Odessa or being involved with the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

Vern's a former member of the Odessa City Council where he also served as mayor pro tem, a director of the Odessa Crime Stoppers and also participates with the Odessa Boys and Girls Club. In addition, he is also on the national committee of Illuminating Engineers, security lighting.

He's the former chairman of the TRAF historical committee and also on the fundraising committee.

Vern attended the University of Texas where he received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering

Asked why he supports the Texas Rangers, Foreman said, "I have been a long time supporter of law enforcement and the Texas Rangers are the top police organization in the world.

"I was invited by Chuck Mattox to a presentation



**Vern Foreman**

and explanation of the foundation and joined as a member in 1982. In 1987 I was appointed by then Captain Gene Powell to the board of directors."

Vern said his favorite part of being a member of TRAF is meeting and associating with an outstanding group of men and women board members.

He added, "Most of all, however, I have enjoyed becoming friends with many of the Rangers."

Vern said he and his wife, Charlotte, have had the pleasure of hosting

two Co. E meetings at their family ranch. "The pleasure my wife and I have experienced with them is phenomenal. Through the years we've made life-long friends with many Rangers, an honor that's indescribable."

He said, "Co. E sponsored the first 'gala' in Odessa, 'An Evening with the Texas Rangers.' The success of this event and the work and participation of all that were involved will always provide me with a lasting memory."

When asked what makes him so passionate

about the Rangers, Vern replied, "They are the 'Best of the Best.' Texas Rangers are a special 'breed' of outstanding men and women."

He said he'd tell people considering being a benefactor, "If you want to support the Rangers and become a participant in an outstanding organization, this is where you need to be."

His favorite movie: "The Outlaw Josey Wales." His favorite book: "It's hard to just pick one. I have a collection of Ranger history books I have read and enjoyed them all."

Any spare time Vern can squeeze out of his busy life he spends with active hobbies: collecting guns, dove hunting, shooting pistols and hunting hogs.

Vern said he is continually impressed with the Rangers' pursuit of training and technology. "Their responsibilities with the river at the border have necessitated many changes."

The Rangers have also given Vern a pattern he looks for in people. "I highly value an individual's perseverance and integrity."

After 28 years on the board, Vern has met hundreds of people who fit this mold.

"Our TRAF organization does a wonderful job, and I'm proud to have my name associated with it."

## Chairman's Report -

# TRAF companies busy statewide

By **Jim Chionsini**  
**TRAF Chairman**



*Jim Chionsini*

We've got plenty of activities underway in all parts of the state with Texas Ranger Association Foundation companies all working on individual programs designed to improve our organization and at the same time keep our coffers active to pay for our scholarships, aid to Rangers and emergency requirements.

We could fill our newsletter by simply thanking people for their outstanding efforts and taking the bulls by the horns and showing the widespread leadership we've always enjoyed.

First, I'd like to congratulate new directors who have joined the board

in 2015. Each will make outstanding contributions and have already hit the ground running.

In February, Carl Lambert of Houston was named as a headquarters representative, and Rick Hernandez of McAllen joined Co. D, followed by Ken Olson, Lubbock to Co. C.

Dave Conlon of Johnson City joined Co. F in June. Steve LaMantia of Laredo and Trey Martinez of Brownsville both joined new Director Rick Hernandez in Co. D in August. And finally our Co. D contingency was filled in September by Joseph "Jay" Wise of Corpus Christi.

For too long Joe York was our lone director from Co. D, which is under Major Brian Burzynski. Our three newest directors are featured elsewhere in this edition.

I think it's most important to be aware of the tremendous importance our grants and gifts programs are in helping continue our mission.

So far this year we have had a

continuing grant of \$75,000 from the Ed Rachal Foundation; \$45,000 in various programs from H.E.B.; \$25,000 grant from our friends at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; and a \$2,000 gift from Winners for Life.

We also need to remember our friends at La Salle Corrections, who provide the food and volunteers to feed all participants in our Reunion Weekend golf tournament.

Of course, we can't overlook the great friendship we've developed with the Ram Division of Chrysler and the FCA Foundation. More on this will be highlighted in other stories.

We have 30 new benefactors in TRAF this year. In 1981 when the first directors meeting was held, there were 50 living retired Rangers. Now there are 185 on our rolls that we are proud to salute. More than 500 people attended the 2015 Reunion Weekend.

It is so great to see our Rangers, both

*Chairman continued page 17*

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## **Chief** cont. from page 1...

incidents of corruption and unjustified use of deadly force.

The Texas Ranger Division places the utmost importance and priority on conducting comprehensive investigations driven by integrity when allegations are made against police officers.

However, some anti-police propaganda broadcast through social media encourages conflict between police officers doing their job—patrolling our communities and investigating crime—and those misguided individuals who have succumbed to the barrage of the opposing views.

It is not just the officers patrolling the streets who have become targets.

Last year an assailant fired at the Austin Police headquarters and in June of this year a gunman opened fire on the Dallas Police headquarters after planting bombs in the vicinity.

We must be vigilant at all times!

On the day of Deputy Goforth's funeral, as directed by Texas Governor Gregg Abbott, Department of Public Safety Troopers, special agents and Texas Rangers joined

others from across the state in a moment of silence with emergency police lights activated to show unity for the law enforcement profession.

Citizens showed their support by driving with their headlights on or by displaying blue ribbons in their communities.

The support by the public is greatly appreciated by all law enforcement.

We must unite with citizens to show the true face of thousands of honorable and trustworthy public servants who have dedicated their lives to protecting the nation.

It is public support and the support we receive from the Texas Ranger Association Foundation, the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and all of its members that is crucial to improving the positive image of law enforcement.

My mark of respect and appreciation for the men and women of the Texas Ranger Division continues to grow with admiration for their selfless acts of courage and dedicated commitment to protect and serve.

I speak for all of us when I say thank you for your continued support.



*CHAIRMAN JIM and Macy Chionsini introduced three of their children as new Texas Ranger Association Foundation benefactors. They are (l-r) JT Maroney, Macy, Jim, Jennifer Chionsini Cortez and Brandi Chionsini.*

## TRAF Benefactor List, memorials growing

TRAF's benefactors' list, during 2015, has grown by 29, including 5 distinguished benefactors, 3 headquarters benefactors and 21 foundation benefactors, totaling \$86,000. More than three months are still on the calendar to sign new ones.

Distinguished members represent \$10,000 initial contributions; headquarters members pay \$5,000 and foundation members pay \$1,000.

The new distinguished members are Dave Conlon, John Sturkie, RAM-FCA Foundation, Kenneth E. Leonard and Rick Hernandez.

New headquarters members are Bob Levine, Steve LaMantia and Alan W. Dreeben.

Foundation members are Christopher Cassidy, Edward D. Dent, Grover J. Geiselman, John P. Harrington, Lee Hartman, Clyde C. King Jr., Tom Jeff Haynie, Fred B. Hartman, Sukhi Jolly, Chad and Monica Reeves, Douglas E. Reynolds, Benigno Martinez, Randall C. Pickett, Weldon Ratliff and Wayne Redding.

Also, Brian Stern, Jennifer Chionsini Cortez, James P. Walker, Brandi Chionsini, Joseph C. (Jay) Wise, J.T. Maroney and Frederick H. Pearce.

Also during the year, memorials and honorariums

have seen substantial growth.

Those contributions are from Jewel Wood in memory of her husband John M. Wood, Janet Jackson in memory of her husband Joel Jackson, Dr. J. Marvin Smith in memory of William Lewis Epps, PYCO Industries in Lubbock in memory of Don W. Jackson, Fred H. and Marie Pearce in memory of Capt. Bob Connell.

Also, Joe York Jr. in memory of Johnnie and Ray Hargrove, Wes and Debbie Turley, in memory of Capt. Newtown Wright (Dub) Clark, Ret., and Rodney Joy in memory of J.B. Darden.

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*RETIRED TEXAS Ranger Bill Gunn had plenty supporters at the 2015 Reunion Weekend in Waco. Joining him in renewing old acquaintances and swapping stories with his buddies were his daughters, Judy Gunn, Renee French, son-in-law Jeff Schulz, daughter Penne and granddaughter Samantha Schulz.*

Texas Ranger 20 years –

## Being a lawman runs in Gunn's family

"When I became a Texas Ranger in 1966, Captain Clint Peoples told me to leave my work in my car and don't bring it in the house to my family," Bill Joe Gunn recalls. "I had never discussed work in front of my daughters as a patrolman, and I wasn't about to start then."

Central Texas has been home for Gunn. He was born in Little River in Bell County in 1930 and has never strayed far from his roots. He joined the Texas National Guard in 1948 during a time when all men over 18 were required to register for the military draft.

He served in the 142nd Infantry and the 36th Division of the U.S. Army Reserve and was appointed company commander in 1957. He was promoted to first lieutenant in 1958 while living in Lampasas.

He graduated from the Texas Department of Public Safety in December 1951 and was promoted to

the Texas Highway Patrol in Austin. He was assigned to Lampasas County from 1953-61 and transferred to Georgetown in Williamson County from 1962-66 where he also served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve with the rank of major.

Col. Homer Garrison swore Bill in as a Texas Ranger in 1966 along with Joaquin Jackson and Charlie Neal. He spent his entire Ranger career in Co. F, serving McLennan, Bosque, Hill, Ellis and Johnson counties until his retirement in 1986.

He served as a deputy U.S. Marshal for the Western District in Waco for 11 years, 1996-2007.

"Other than the Marshall Service, I did some private investigation work and cooked and catered barbecue." He and his wife joined Johnny and Cheryl Harris in compiling the Official Texas Ranger Cookbook.

Some of his investigative work involved his own family. "My great-

grandfather, James Thomas Lambert, was a frontier Ranger. These men left their farms to fight Indians when there were uprisings.

"My grandfather told me about Lambert after I became a Ranger. Granddaddy Lambert thought I should know there was another Ranger in the family's history.

"I did some research and discovered his grave in Reed's Lake Cemetery in Bell County. Records say he died in 1873, and his last known battle was against Comanches in the San Saba area.

"According to family history, Lambert's grandchildren called him 'Grandpa Gripe' because he had a gruff demeanor," Bill noted.

Bill's father, Lester Gunn, left the farm in 1951 and went to work for the Bell County sheriff and served as chief deputy for 14 years, before running for

*Gunn continued page 17*

# Chief Prince announces major promotions and transfers

Ranger Chief Randy Prince has announced the promotion and transfer of two Ranger majors, and the retirement of a third.

Tony Bennie, who had been major of Co. C in Lubbock, has been transferred to Co. B as major in Garland. He replaces Major Dewayne Dockery, who retired after 28 years with the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Captain Todd Snyder has been transferred from SWAT at Ranger headquarters and promoted to major of Co. C in Lubbock, succeeding Major Bennie.

Prince also announced the retirement of Ranger Marshall Thomas, Co. C in Wichita Falls. He is succeeded by Ranger Toby Catlin, Co. C in Graham. Another transfer involved Ranger Antonio Rocha, Co. D



**Major Tony Bennie**

in Harlingen to Co. D, Brownsville.

Two others have been promoted to Rangers. They are Joel Callaway to Co. E in Andrews and Joshua Ray to Co. A in Bryan.

Two other promotions were announced in July. Ranger Melba



**Major Todd Snyder**

Molina was promoted from Co. D McAllen to staff lieutenant, Joint Operations Intelligence Center in Edinburg.

Staff Sergeant Donald Bolton, SWAT at headquarters, has been promoted to staff lieutenant.

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## Three new directors join TRAF board

Three new members have been elected to the Texas Ranger Association Foundation board of directors, all representing Co. D, joining veteran director Joe York and another relatively new director, Rick Hernandez.

All were recommended by Co. D Major Brian Burzynski.

The new members are Joseph "Jay" Wise Jr., a senior vice president with Merrill Lynch from Corpus Christi; Benigno "Trey" Martinez, a private practice attorney from Brownsville; and Steve LaMantia, vice president and general manager of L&F Distributors who also helps manage a family-owned ranching business.

All three are deeply involved in community activities.

Wise is a University of Texas graduate, and serves on the Corpus Christi Police Foundation, Del Mar College Foundation board, airport advisory committee, Catholic Charities board, Patriot Guard rider, Boy Scouts executive



**Jay Wise**

committee and is a volunteer with Special Olympics.



**Trey Martinez**

He's a former U.S. Marine, and has a son, Jeff, who is a former combat Marine and is enrolled at Texas Tech. Another son, Scott is a pediatric ICU registered nurse. Among Jay's hobbies are running and karate.



**Steve LaMantia**

*Directors continued page 16*

## Executive Director's report – Plenty of action on TRAF calendar



By Liz Myrick, TRAF Executive Director

There's a lot on tap at the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

We're excited about the possibility of deepening our long-standing partnership with the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. An exploratory committee has been established with representation from both organizations to undertake a feasibility study.

The goal of the study is to assess our ability to increase organizational capacity for much-needed updates and improvements to facilities, and for measures that will ensure long-term sustainability for TRAF scholarships,

the annual retired Ranger Reunion and the Ranger relief program.

We have seen an increase in the need for Ranger relief assistance and have been pleased to help Rangers and their families.

While appeals and situations brought to us have been heart wrenching, it has been truly wonderful to witness the swift mobilization of TRAF resources when a need comes to the attention of TRAF directors.

I've been privileged to witness first hand the resounding, unfailing tenet that this is most fundamental and the heart of our mission. The compassion, dignity, and sensitivity with which this group of directors and Ranger liaisons has handled each request is extraordinary.

We are excited to welcome three new directors for the board representing Co. D. Steven LaMantia, Trey Martinez and Joseph "Jay" Wise bring a wealth of expertise, experience, and enthusiasm to the board.

They join directors Rick Hernandez and Joe York in supporting Major Brian Burzynski and the Rangers of Co. D. No doubt they'll be jumping right into the action with the upcoming company Texas Ranger Classic!

It's the first annual sporting clay shoot fundraiser for Co. D scheduled for Nov. 7 in Edinburg.

Co. E is also hosting its first annual sporting clay shoot fundraiser in San Angelo on Oct. 17, led by directors Jerry Wellborn and Dave Wilson.

*Calendar continued page 15*

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## Ranger 'official armorer' Herman Mueschke dies

Herman Mueschke, officially recognized as the first armorer of the Texas Rangers, died on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 after a short illness. Born in 1926, Herman lived his life in The Heights neighborhood in Houston.

At 19, Herman joined the United States Army and deployed to the European Theater in WWII, as a soldier in the Legendary 273<sup>rd</sup> Infantry of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup>. He was assigned to the invasion of Leipzig in 1945, the climax to the fall of Hitler's regime.

The infantry boarded ship for the Pacific invasion on Japan, but were spared many casualties by President Truman's order to bomb Hiroshima.

Herman felt his life had been spared, and when returning to home to Houston he devoted his life to serving others,

*Mueschke continued page 13*



*THIS PHOTO, taken in 2014, shows (l-r) Texas Ranger Major Freeman Martin, Spindletop International Director David Williams and Herman Mueschke. David made a generous contribution to the TRAF Scholarship Fund for the unique pistol, and Herman facilitated the transfer of the weapon. During the visit Herman realized he attended high school with David's mother in the mid-1940s. Small world indeed.*





*TEXAS OILMAN'S Charity Invitational fishing tournament has once again presented a generous donation to Co. A Texas Rangers. For more than 10 years, this philanthropic group of oilmen named TRAF a beneficiary of more than \$50,000 for the scholarship fund from the Galveston event. Pictured (l-r) are Oilman volunteer Joel Battle, Co. A Major Jeff Collins, Ranger Noe Diaz, Oilman director Curtis Denison and Ranger Lt. Kip Westmoreland.*

## 45 awarded scholarships for \$2,000 in fall semester

The 2015-2016 academic year is well underway, and TRAF has awarded 45 scholarships for this fall semester! 43 of these scholarships represent full-time status with each student receiving \$2,000 per semester.

This class of scholarship recipients represents one of the largest in TRAF's history. Colleges and universities represented with our outstanding college-bound students include Angelina College, Angelo State University, Austin Community College, Blinn Junior College, Concordia University, Hardin-Simmons University, Howard College, Lone Star College, Lubbock Christian

University, Midland College, Sam Houston State University, San Jose State University, South Plains College, St. Mary's University, Tarrant County College and Texas A&M – Kingsville.

Also, Texas A&M University – College Station, Texas State University, Texas Tech University, University of Arkansas, University of Kansas, University of North Texas, University of Texas at Austin, University of Texas El Paso, University of Texas Pan American, Weatherford College, and West Texas A&M University.

In addition to the TRAF scholarships, students attending Angelo State University receive a

full match due to the generosity of Macy and Jim Chionsini, current TRAF chairman.

Students attending Texas A&M University in College Station also receive a partial match thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Lam, former TRAF director, as well as additional matching funds from Texas A&M University. Each student is required to maintain a 2.0 grade point each semester to continue the TRAF scholarship.

Texas Ranger Association Foundation has provided more than \$1,750,000 in scholarships to children of active Texas Rangers since the program began in 1989.

### **Scholarships** cont. from page 1...

by the Texas Ranger Association Foundation, knowing that some of the financial burden has been lifted from my parents," Andi said.

She added, "I'll always very much appreciate what the foundation does not only for me but for my parents as well. God bless all of you."

Kristin is a freshman at Tarrant County College and her major is forensic nursing. She is the daughter of Juan Carlos Torrez, Co. E.

"Growing up and coming into this world is scarier than I thought it

would be and nothing like I expected," Kristin said. "I've come to realize that to get to where you want to go you have to make sacrifices, but I like to think of it as a we sacrifice things for something greater."

She added, "I know I want to become a successful woman, and I do deeply appreciate that I received this scholarship from the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. It has given me more motivation and helped me realize that I can do this. Thank you!"

Sage is a freshman at Lamar

University in Orange where he plans to major in process engineering. He graduated from Vidor High School in 2014 and decided to work a year before starting college.

He is the son of Texas Ranger Bobby Smith, Co. A.

Sage said, "I am confident with my abilities to work hard and the help you have given me with the TRAF scholarship, I am now on the right path to have a successful career. I am grateful for all the help provided by TRAF."

Hall and Museum report -

# Museum, TRAF alliance looks to future

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



**Byron Johnson**

In eight years Texas will celebrate the momentous Texas Ranger Bicentennial™—the 200th anniversary of America’s oldest statewide law enforcement agency. The Texas Public Safety Commission appointed the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum steward of the bicentennial.

The appointment recognizes the Hall of Fame and Museum as the Rangers’ own State Museum (1964), State Hall of Fame (1971) and official repository (1997).

The Commission has tasked us with “renovating and improving the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum as a lasting tribute to the Texas Ranger Bicentennial.” Together with the allied Texas Ranger Association Foundation, we



have taken impressive steps to forge a bright future for both organizations.

A showplace 8,000-foot Texas Ranger Co. F headquarters has been constructed on-site. This \$1.6M operations center replaced an obsolete 40-year-old headquarters built by the City of Waco.

Serving as an “embassy” for all Rangers, it has been visited by tourists and government representatives throughout the U.S. and from China to Germany.

Meeting and conference space has expanded to better serve the public and the Texas Rangers. Our Knox Center banquet hall received a \$1.1 million wall-to-wall renovation and now has an impressive view of the new Baylor Stadium.

A state-of-the-art education center, named for Ranger Capt. Robert Mitchell, assists more than 150 nonprofits a year and hosts Texas Ranger training schools, meetings and

*Museum continued page 14*

## From India with love (for Texas Rangers)

As a little girl growing up in India, Soumya Jayaraj fell in love with the Texas Rangers. Her dream of coming to America became a reality as a college student, but she really hoped her dream of meeting a Texas Ranger would come true.

Fate led her to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame Museum in Waco, and the column she wrote following her visit is a testament to how the lore of the Texas Rangers continues to spark an interest and inspiration for each generation.

**Dreaming of Texas Rangers**

By **Soumya Jayaraj**

“I fell in love around



**Soumya Jayaraj had quite a day, winning election to a school-wide office, then meeting her idols, Texas Rangers from Co. D. Making the surprise visit in McAllen were (l-r) Co. D Rangers Lt. Ric Rivera, Ranger Bobby Garcia, Soumya, and Major Brian Burzynski.**

the fifth or sixth grade — deeply, passionately and irrecoverably in love.

“Little did I know at the time that my love would one day bring me across oceans and continents to

the land that I fell in love with — the land where the long grass blows, the longhorns roam, the land of cowboys and rodeos and tumbleweeds and, of course, the Texas Rangers!

“Far, far away from Texas in the Indian subcontinent, I was introduced to Texas as a little girl through my books.

*India continued page 15*

## Programs helping children

# Chief Prince honored by Angel Fund

Texas Ranger Chief Randy Prince has been honored in Houston with "The Angel Award," presented by the Be An Angel Fund, a non-profit Houston organization.

Nominees are selected based on his or her contribution of time to children's causes, specifically programs that prevent child abuse, promote special education and rehabilitation, children's safety and assist children in need.

The Be An Angel Fund was created in 1986 by a concerned parent attempting to meet the needs of the multiple disabled and/or profoundly deaf students at a Houston school.

It began as a Christmas program providing gifts to those special needs children who otherwise may have not received anything.

Today, 29 years later, Be An Angel serves children primarily with adaptive equipment and select services throughout Texas.

Be An Angel believes all children deserve the opportunity to experience life at their fullest potential.

The Angel Award was created to honor and recognize individuals that have helped fulfill the mission.

On receiving the award during the 7<sup>th</sup> annual



**HOUSTON ANGEL Fund honored Texas Ranger Chief Randy Prince (right) and others for their contributions to special children causes, including prevention of abuse and the promotion of special education and rehabilitation. Also receiving awards were (l-r) Harris Foundation founder and NASA Astronaut Dr. Bernard Harris and Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia.**

Angel Awards Gala, Chief Prince explained to the 500 attendees how Rangers are taking the lead to protect Texas children through the Texas Department of Public Safety's Interdiction for the Protection of Children.

He said the (IPC) initiative is a newly developed and implemented model to address child exploitation.

The training program has been taught to thousands of police officers across the United States and Canada.

Using information from this training program, police officers have rescued both endangered and kidnapped children.

It has repeatedly demonstrated a proactive ability to help officers intervene before an assault can occur.

This specialized training is sought by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies through the Texas Rangers' Crimes Against Children Center at Ranger headquarters in Austin.

Attending in support of Chief Prince was Texas Ranger Association director Constance White, who served on the Be An Angel Fund board. Additional Prince supporters were Co. A Ranger Noe Diaz and his wife Sheila.

Also in attendance were Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, a founding board member of the Be An Angel Fund, Texas Senators John Whitmire and Joan Huffman, and Apollo astronaut Walt Cunningham and his wife Dot.

Obituaries -

# Lewis Epps

## TRAF Director Emeritus Lewis Epps dies in Pampa



**Lewis Epps**

William Lewis Epps, 95, a charter member of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation, died in Pampa in late July.

Epps was featured in the December, 2013 TRAF Newsletter when he was given a second TRAF logo jacket with his name inscribed "because he had worn out the first one and was so proud of it."

He was a native of Sherman, but lived in Pampa since 1942. He

joined the U.S. Army Air Corps at age 20, serving five years. He returned to Pampa and went to work as a butcher, retiring after 40 years. He was a founding member and director emeritus of the Freedom Museum USA and was a charter member and director emeritus of TRAF.

Survivors include a son, James (Andy) Epps and wife Kay of Pampa; two daughters, Barbie Crawford and husband Jim of Midland, and Della Moyer and husband Jim of Pampa; 12 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, 8 great-great-grandchildren and a host of other family and friends.

Memorials may be sent to the Museum USA, 600 North Hobart in Pampa or the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Box 190567, Dallas 75219-0657.



# Ranger's wife Lydia Peters dies in Corpus

Funeral services for Lydia Geraldine Peters, widow of retired Texas Ranger James (Jim) Peters, were held in late July in Corpus Christi.

She died after a long illness. Memorials may be given in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association and the Former Texas Rangers Foundation in Fredericksburg.

Ranger Peters spent 30 years with the Texas Department of Public Safety, the final 18 as a Texas Ranger. He died in late August, 2014.

# Bobby Grubbs

## Former Ranger/Sheriff Grubbs dies at age 70



**Bobby Grubbs**

Former Texas Ranger and Brown County Sheriff Bobby Grubbs died on Sept. 3 at age 74.

He was born in June 1945 to A.J. and Meriel Grubbs in Sweetwater where he attended public schools. After graduation, he enlisted in the navy and served aboard the destroyer USS Fletcher during the Vietnam War.

After his military service, he joined the Department of Public Safety as a state trooper in Denton County. He continued his DPS service by being promoted to the Texas Rangers where

*Grubbs continued page 13*



# Jack Morton

## Jack Morton of Granbury dies at 79



**Jack Morton**

Jack B. Morton, who served in the Texas Department of Public Safety as a patrolman and later a Ranger, died in late August in Granbury.

He was born in 1936 in Erath County to George Lee and Mayme Viola Vandever Morton. He joined the DPS in 1960 and served as a highway patrolman.

In 1971 he was

*Morton continued page 13*

# Pedro Montemayor

## Longtime lawman dies at 86



Longtime Texas lawman Pedro G. Montemayor, 86, died on Aug. 26 in Laredo.

He had a distinguished career in law enforcement that began with the San Benito Police Department in 1952, culminating with his retirement from the Texas Department of Public and Texas Ranger service in 1984.

**Pedro Montemayor**

He is survived by his children, Rosalinda (Jesus) Rodriguez, Irma (Robert) Overton, Pedro (Norma A.) Montemayor Jr., Magdalena (Joe) Bermea; and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Honorary burial service was provided by the Texas Department of Public Safety/Texas Ranger honor guard.

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### **Morton** *cont. from page*

promoted to intelligence agent and in 1979 was elevated to Texas Ranger. After retirement, he went to work for the Tarrant County district attorney's office as assistant chief of investigations until 1995, when he retired again and became a cattle and horse rancher for the rest of his life.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Bill Morton; and sisters Fern Mayhew, Star Hopkins and Myrna O'Boyle.

He is survived by a son, Mark Morton and wife Cindy of Granbury; grandchildren Joshua and wife Tiffany and Lauren, both of Granbury; great-grandson Caden; and brothers Norman Morton and wife Linda Gaskill of Weatherford and James Rudy (Chip) of Houston.

### **Contributors to the TRAF Newsletter:**

- |                       |               |                   |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Capt. Richard Sweaney | Liz Myrick    | Capt. Barry Caver |
| Randy Prince          | Byron Johnson | Constance White   |
| Cheryl Iselt          | Jim Chionsini | Bill Hartman      |

For address changes, call 254-752-1001

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### **Grubbs** *cont. from page 12...*

he was stationed in Midland and later Brownwood where he retired after 19 years as a Ranger and 34 total with the DPS.

His passion for law enforcement continued when he was elected sheriff of Brownwood. He was serving his third term at the time of his death.

He was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by Joy Grubbs, his wife for 45 years; brother Don Grubbs and wife Elloise of Sweetwater; sister Sandra Walker and husband Keith of Rory; daughter Jannell Johnson and husband David of Brownwood; son John Grubbs of San Antonio; grandchildren Ben and Abby Johnson and Adyn Alldredge; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Burial was at Indian Creek Cemetery.

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### **Mueschke** *cont. from page 8...*

began his entrepreneurial life and dedication to law enforcement. As a law enforcement officer, armorer and firearms instructor, Herman served many law enforcement agencies including the Houston Police Department, Harris County Sheriff's Office, The United States Marshals' Service, FBI, The United States Secret Service, ATF, DEA and the Texas Rangers.

He received many awards and commendations for his expertise as a gunsmith, his acumen for inventions, and benevolence to fellow officers and dignitaries.

"Herman's gift was making you feel proud of who you were - not because of your standing or position, but because of you as a person. It was a genuine God-given talent, and we were blessed to have known him", said former Texas Ranger Chief Tony Leal.

"Herman Mueschke was the go-to person for the Texas Rangers for many years. He was never too busy to stop what he was doing to make one feel like you were the most important person he was seeing that day. He was the most talented and humble man I have ever known," former Texas Ranger Captain Bob Prince said

"A man amongst men, he was humble, honest, and compassionate. Traits most of us aspire to obtain in a lifetime. But, most of all he was proud of being a Texan and an American, and if you were his friend he was proud of having you as a friend. He made you feel like he was your best friend, every time you met him", said Noe Diaz, Company A Texas Ranger.

Herman Mueschke will be missed by active and retired Texas Rangers across the State.

# Ranger Bird cemetery stone updated by fellow Rangers

*(Editor's note: The following is taken in part from the Quanah Tribune-Chief newspaper article about a Texas Ranger who died and was buried over a century ago.)*

The military has its creed of never leaving behind a fallen comrade.

The Texas Rangers take it a step further.

They never leave a comrade either — even one who served and died more than a century ago.

When Ranger James Thomas Bird died in 1894 at the age of 46, his young widow, a sculptor, created

an ornate marker for her husband's grave, located in Quanah Memorial Park Cemetery.

Time and the elements wore away the soft gypsum rock, leaving little evidence of Bird's service to Texas.

Through several individuals and the Texas Ranger Association Foundation, a new marker rests on Bird's gravesite, a lasting testament to his service.

Ranger Lt. Jay Foster of Childress and Amarillo, a Quanah native, and Ranger Bo Brown of Quanah say they

are appreciative to the TRAF and to Phillip Self of Self Monuments in Childress for making it possible.

"We're just proud to get him a proper headstone for his gravesite," Foster said. "The foundation is committed to providing financial assistance and support to Texas Ranger and their families."

The foundation has contributed \$132,000 since 2006 to assist active and retired Rangers and their families in time of need, also since 1989 more than \$1.9 million for scholarships for children of active Rangers.



## **Museum** cont. from page 10...

task forces.

The crowning jewel thus far is the \$1.5 million Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center. It is the first dedicated law enforcement library and archives in the nation.

Since opening in 2012, thousands of authors, genealogists and television and film producers have consulted its resources and staff. Its records date back to the 1830s. It has an extensive and growing collection of rare books, and it safeguards modern Ranger case files consulted in 'cold case' investigations.

TRAF is a strong partner in this mission with impressive achievements. It has awarded more than 1,150 scholarships to the children of serving Texas Rangers. They have gone on to careers in public safety, the military medicine, science and engineering and the arts. TRAF provides compassionate assistance to Rangers and families struck by tragedy.

And they have invested in the Hall of Fame and Museum. Through their influence and support, the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo awarded a \$175,000 seed grant to start an education division at the museum.

This has provided the personnel resources to create camps, lecture series, educational programs, tours serving children and adults throughout the state and exhibits.

History allocations from the Foundation provided partial funding for an oral history program to electronically publish Texas Ranger history and to create an exhibit honoring the 180-plus retired Texas Rangers.

Among the partners to the bicentennial is the City of Waco. Often overlooked, the city serves as the state-appointed trustee and "safety net" for the Hall of Fame and Museum. The city contributed funds that started the museum.

Each year, for a half century, the city has contributed 40 to 60 percent of the operating budget (now \$1.4 million) necessary to operate the educational facility.

And they have given \$1.6 million towards the initial Bicentennial improvements—about \$12 for every resident of the community.

The future is now being charted by a joint exploratory committee appointed by the Hall of Fame and

Museum and foundation boards. The committee is determining the best and most practical means of accomplishing the goals of the two organizations.

The goal is an updated, renovated and expanded Hall of Fame and Museum and a strong foundation serving an expanding Texas Ranger service. The ability to successfully carry such projects out is proven by the combined 85-years of service history of the two organizations and the 4.5 million visitors who have visited them in Waco.

This effort is already attracting support. The first Texas Ranger Bicentennial Partner, the RAM Truck division of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, has granted an initial \$200,000 towards improvements.

Among the many individuals and corporations who have financially supported the Hall of Fame and Museum and the Foundation in the ramp up to the bicentennial are Charles Butt/HEB, The Texas Bankers Association and Independent Bankers Association of Texas, Robert Duvall, Nelson Rockefeller Jr., President George H. W. Bush, the Justin Foundation and the Kleberg family.



### **India** cont. from page 10...

"These included the work of Louis L'Amour and all the other Western writers in due course. I dreamt of tumbleweeds and long grass and horses and Texas Rangers — they were my solace, my joy. They made me smile.

"I landed in Texas in January, Houston to be exact. I consider it a quirk of fate that I did not fly into Newark or Atlanta or Los Angeles but to Texas.

"Eight months down the line I have been to the rodeo and the stockyards of Fort Worth and I have seen the longhorns.

"But what completely delighted me and surprised me is the Texas Rangers Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco.

"I visited the museum last month and, believe you me, the five hours I spent there I never stopped smiling.

"The museum is full of history, brimming with it. The collection they have is astounding.

"I saw every firearm that I ever read about in there and every tool, details of every Native American tribe and its leaders, trails and the Rangers and the hideouts.

"I could spend days in that museum and not get tired of it.

"To any person who loves Texas and who loves history, I say the museum is a must-see.

"From the outside it is a nondescript building that might not invite a second glance, but you step in and it takes you to a different world — a world of gallant men on either side of the law and their way of life.

"Everything that was Texas is there, from the early 1800s onwards.

"My trip to the Waco museum is one that I will cherish forever and one that I know will always make me smile.

"My only grievance is that I did not get to meet an actual Texas Ranger. I did walk over to the Company F headquarters, but to my utter disappointment it was closed, being a Saturday.

"I would have loved to meet a Texas Ranger. They're such integral parts of the history of Texas."

Soumya's written words did not go unnoticed by Texas Rangers across the state. However, it was the Company D Texas Rangers who wanted to meet Soumya!

"We did some research and found out she was a member of the International Students Association at South Texas College in McAllen," said Major Brian Burzynski, stationed in McAllen.

Along with Ranger Bobby Garcia and Lieutenant Rick Rivera, they paid a surprise visit to Soumya.

"As luck would have it, she was running for office on the day of our

visit so we found out when elections ended to make our surprise visit. (Soumya was elected Treasurer!)," Burzynski said.

"She was so surprised and excited to see us, and she really is exceptionally knowledgeable when it comes to the history of the Texas Rangers.

"We presented her with some gifts as a token of appreciation for her kind words. I can tell you it made her day, and we really enjoyed it too," said Burzynski.

Museum Director Byron Johnson was touched by Soumya's column as well.

"In a year's time we see thousands of visitors coming from every corner of the world. The most meaningful are students and young people.

"They gain a positive opinion of America, Texas and the purpose of law enforcement often very different than they are exposed to in the media.

"They leave with the knowledge that some legends are real, that quiet heroes still walk among us, and that ideals of service still exist.

"The Texas Ranger heritage is a national treasure that has inspired 10 generations. The ripples from her visit will stretch from America to India.

"She will never forget, and will tell her children about the day she met Texas Rangers," said Johnson.



### **Calendar** cont. from page 8...

Each of these events has outstanding committees of TRAF Directors, Rangers and dedicated volunteers for whom we are very grateful.

Their commitment will ensure these events are going to be a huge success!

Cooler temperatures means the

end of the year is fast approaching. With all the great work being done for the Texas Rangers, perhaps it's time to consider wrapping up the year with a tax-deductible donation to the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

Donations can be designated by the donor to any specific program such as Ranger relief assistance,

scholarships, or the Annual Retired Ranger Reunion.

Memorials and honorariums are also a touching way to pay tribute to someone as the holidays bring to mind those who have meant the most to us. If you'd like more information or would like to make a contribution, please call (254) 752-1001.



**TRAF DIRECTOR Russell Molina (left) presents a membership certificate to new Headquarters Benefactor Bob Levine. Bob is good friends with Molina and former Ranger Chief Tony Leal. Note the pin Bob is wearing. It's the same pin Tony wore when he was Captain, Co. A. It was a gift from Tony to Bob.**

## Thanks for 2015 Ranger Reunion

To TRAF Directors:

Thank you so very much for the 2015 Ranger Reunion. We cherish this opportunity each year to spend time with our Texas Ranger family, retired and present-day Rangers.

The foundation's generosity in paying the retirees' expenses is such a delightful bonus to a wonderful weekend.

We appreciate and enjoy each event of the weekend and are pleased

that our children and grandchildren share this event with us so they will understand and cherish us being a part of this elite group of law enforcement officers.

We are impressed with all the fine work done to help educate current Ranger children with the scholarship fund. Thanks for you all being our dear friends.

Sincerely,  
David and Jana Byrnes

### **Directors** cont. from page 7...

Jay's reason for being interested in the TRAF board is, "To help protect those and their families who protect us. I also want to help guarantee children of Texas Rangers get an education and to assist Rangers and their families under any circumstances."

Trey has served as a United Way loan executive, is a member of the University of Texas at Brownsville board and on the board at St. Mary's elementary school.

Trey said, "Once I learned about the foundation's goals, I immediately had an interest, because these are in line with many of my personal beliefs."

He's a 1996 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law and was elected permanent class president and president of the student bar association. He also received an under graduate degree from UT, with a major in political science and psychology. From 1997 until 2000, he worked in the United States Attorney's office in Brownsville. He's a member of regional and state bar associations and is a member of the American Trial Lawyer's Association.

He's on the development board at UT Brownsville, is a former president of St. Mary's Catholic school board, president of the Brownsville aquatics club and is a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Steve moved to Laredo in 1990 when they bought the Anheuser-Busch wholesaler distributorship. In 2011, along with his family, he started a new venture, Favorite Brands, distributing wine and spirits throughout Texas and New

Mexico

LaMantia manages a 500-herd yearling calf operation, a game managed hunting production and 1,000-acre cultivated farmland. For the last 25 years he has been officiating football, beginning in middle school games, then Friday night varsity games.

In 2004 he was selected to officiate Division 3 college games and in 2006 was hired by Arena Football II as a referee. In 2008 he was tabbed to officiate Division 1 football and is currently in Conference USA.

He helped establish a non-profit, STARS, which provides scholarships to students from South Texas to attend college. STARS volunteers have raised more than \$22 million, awarding scholarships to more than 6,000 students.

Steve also served 11 years as chairman of the board of Laredo Medical Center. He has served on the boards of the Laredo Chamber, Border Olympics, Cola Blanca and the Laredo A&M club.

He has also coached boys and girls softball at St. Augustine High School. He's a knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and member of St. Patrick's parish.

Steve and his wife, Linda, have five daughters, Ann and son-in-law Casey, both attorneys; Morgan, also an attorney; Katie, an insurance agent; Samantha, sales manager with Favorite Brands and Molly, a senior at Texas A&M. They have two granddaughters, Avery and Blair.





### **Chairman** *cont. from page 4...*

active and particularly those who are retired, mingle, renew old friendships and swap tales.

It's also a great way for the retired Rangers to keep up to date with those coming after them and to stay abreast of all Ranger activities throughout the state. We particularly want to thank Director Hernandez, Captain Bobby Prince and Ranger Shane Staley for their efforts in our gifts and grants program.

Co. C was one of our companies that started the regional fund raising programs when its golf tournament raised \$14,000. Members of Co. F got our sporting clay shoots off to a bang by making \$97,000 in the inaugural shoot.

Co. E has a big shoot scheduled Oct. 17 in San Angelo under the direction of directors Jerry Wellborn and Dave Wilson, with volunteers Susan Wellborn, Trish Aldridge, Danny Updike, Josh Tanner, Lt. Chris Clark and Rangers Nick Hannah and Tod Reed doing a lot of the

heavy lifting and planning. Call Jerry or Dave if you need more info.

Also, Co. D has a shoot scheduled Nov. 7 in Edinburg. Director Hernandez is chairman of that event. Others participating are Retired Chief Hank Whitman, directors Martinez and LaMantia, Major Burzynski, and lieutenants Wende Wakeman, Corey Lane and Ric Rivera.

Event coordinator Lacy Finley Jemmott is also involved.

Co. A has a shoot coming up next March. More details on that one later. Directors Constance White and Russell Molina are working with Major Jeff Collins on that one.

Our Executive Director Liz Myrick is always right in the middle of each company's planning efforts. She's also making arrangements for our annual winter meeting. Details on that will follow shortly.

We're continuing our ongoing study

with the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum board. For those not current on that topic, it's a study to see how the two organizations can join forces in major fundraising efforts to continue supporting the TRAF scholarships and the museum's big 200th anniversary celebration of the Texas Rangers plus Hall of Fame and museum expansion.

You'll also read more about this in other pages of this edition, but I want to point out that since our scholarship program started back in 1989, TRAF has contributed more than \$1.75 million in scholarships for 1,165 children of Rangers.

If that doesn't make you proud of our organization, I don't know what will.

Just like the Rangers are the greatest police organization, TRAF directors, benefactors and friends are the greatest volunteers. I am grateful to represent this wonderful group of people.

Thanks so much to all of you.



### **Gunn** *cont. from page 6...*

sheriff in 1965. He held office 20 years, longer than anyone in the county's history at the time. "He was always just a phone call away if I needed to talk," Bill said.

Bill said all murder investigations during his law enforcement days stand out in his memory. "Not all were solved, but most were," he said.

"During most of my time in the 1960s and 70s, there were no pagers or cell phones, and we had to stay in touch by way of the car radios and telephones wherever we were. We used the phone at our church a lot, and many times the church secretary had to come out and find us if we were needed."

Gunn proudly says, "Texas Rangers, unlike local police or sheriff deputies, have jurisdiction statewide and can make arrests anywhere. Many other states that call on the Rangers allow arrests there, too."

He said he cannot imagine what

the Rangers will be like in 10 years, let alone 20. Computers and cell phones have made huge differences. I thought having a phone in my truck after I retired was really something.

"Most of our generation came off the farms and were looking for a job to care for our families — a paycheck you could depend on. No one much back then could afford college," he said.

When asked what advice he'd give a young person becoming a Ranger today, he succinctly said, "Be resourceful. Always take the high road and never let someone else influence your decisions."

"The TRAF has provided so much for the Rangers. Being able to come together at the reunions gets to be more meaningful as you get older. The scholarships for Ranger children and having funds available for the retirees who might need assistance are really a blessing."

Bill says any John Wayne movie is his favorite, and all of Larry McMurtry's western novels are his reading choices.

Hunting and fishing are his favorite sports, and raising bird dogs helped him pay for the sports. Western art is his favorite, too. "I just fall in love with the entire world of Western art.

Bill is living at Lutheran Sunset Nursing Home in Clifton. He's also still a member of the J.H. Gurley Lodge 337 A.F.&H. in Waco and the Karem Temple A.A.O.N.M.S in Waco.

One of Bill's special awards is the Certificate of Appreciation as Outstanding Peace Officer in McLennan County in 1974. He has three daughters, Judy Gunn, Renee French and Penne Schulz. He has three grandsons, two granddaughters and two great-granddaughters. One grandson died in 2002.

He'll be looking forward to the Reunion Weekend in 2016.