



# TEXAS RANGER ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION

# STAR JOURNAL

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## 3 Ranger Majors assigned new roles



**Major Jeffrey  
Collins**



**Major Jason Taylor**



**Major Grover  
(Frank) Huff**

Texas Ranger Chief Randy Prince has announced two promotions and a transfer among the major ranks, effective Oct. 1.

Major Jeffrey Collins, who has headed Co. A in Houston, has been transferred to Austin headquarters as major of the Public Integrity Unit.

Major Jason Taylor, who had been a captain in the PIU at headquarters, has been promoted to replace Collins at Co. A. Major Grover (Frank) Huff, who had been captain of administration at headquarters, has been promoted to Co. B

*Roles continued page 5*

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## 3 clay shoots raise \$185,000 for Foundation

The three TRAF clay shoots have raised over \$185,000 for the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. A fourth, put on by Co. A, will be held in early 2017.

Texas Ranger Classic - Co. D shoot was held in Edinburg on Aug. 27 and raised an outstanding \$77,444. Their title sponsors were HEB and Sheriff Billy Hopper.

Hopper's gift of \$25,000 was given in honor of Co. D Major Brian Burzynski. Director Rick Hernandez and his crew worked diligently to make this such a success along with Director Steve LaMantia and L&F Distributors, Safe Global Services, who hosted the VIP party, and Alvaro and Irma Gonzales who were big contributors.

Danny's Pawn and Sporting, Chameleon and Associates, and Allied Universal were also key players in the event. We thank the Star 4-H group who provided the station pullers.

Co. D had 137 shooters and 200 in attendance. The winning team was composed of Robbie Benevides, Aly Besteiro, Rolly Tamayo and Avery Kibbie.

Top finishers were Chad Cooley, high overall; Robbie Benevides, runner up overall; Shea Self, high female overall; and Cole Cooley, high youth overall.

Team flurry champs were Cole Cooley, Chad Cooley, J.C. Carrillo and Rick Bailey.

Texas Ranger Classic - Co. F was

held in San Antonio on Sept. 16 and raised \$41,000. The title sponsor was HEB. They hosted 75 shooters. Director Tom Schleier oversaw this event with the help of Director David Conlon, who provided tumblers for the goodie bags and Director Jimmy Hasslocher who provided the excellent food.

New Co. F Director Joey McCarty was also a key player by securing several of the sponsors! The auction brought in \$16,000.

Members of the championship team at the Co. F shoot were Anissa Banks, Keith Banks, Ross Dickenson and Wayne Swaim.

*Foundation continued page 3*

## Director McCraw addresses department--

# Vigilant responders always at the ready

By **Randy Prince**  
Chief, Texas Rangers



**Randy Prince**

Hello again to our friends and supporters of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. It is a continuous honor to provide periodic updates regarding the great work conducted by the men and women of the Texas Ranger Division.

Unfortunately, we have been busy conducting high threat criminal investigations, officer involved shootings, occurrences of public corruption and tactical events requiring a response by our Special Operations Group.

Each of us recalls the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001, that took so many innocent lives. This past anniversary gives us pause to think of our valiant and intrepid law enforcement, firefighters and first

responders that rushed into the burning twin towers never to return; military and civilian personnel that responded to the Pentagon when a passenger airliner was flown into the heart of our nation's defense; and heroic passengers of the doomed hijacked airliner that fought back and forced the flight to end in a desolate Pennsylvania field instead of a vital U.S. target.

In an address to Texas Department of Public Safety employees in remembrance of the victims of 9/11, Director Steven McCraw highlighted not only the recent attacks around the world but also the terrible crimes and senseless tragedies that have occurred closer to home in recent years.

McCraw stated the importance to recognize and give thanks to our Troopers, Special Agents and Texas Rangers who report for duty every day to protect this state from all threats; our many local, state and federal partners who we work with to ensure safety within Texas and

across the entire nation; the legions of first responders and emergency personnel everywhere who run toward danger in order to help others; and the brave and devoted members of the United States Armed Forces.

"I know you are uniquely aware that we live in a world with an ever-present threat of terrorism and crime," said Director McCraw.

And if we needed reminding just how important his statement was, the next day — terrorists again directly challenged our freedoms and safety with bombings on the streets of New York and New Jersey and a mass casualty stabbing in Minnesota.

The constant threat to our nation requires a vigilant law enforcement community to maintain the first-line defense of our homeland.

The cornerstone of our responsibilities and succeeding success will always be to support

*Prince continued page 9*

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## Chief Prince announces changes in Ranger ranks



**Major William (Tony) Bennie**

Ranger Chief Randy Prince has announced multiple retirements, promotions and transfers in the Ranger service, including Major William (Tony) Bennie, who retired in August from Co. B after 30 years in the Texas Department of Public Safety, 20 of which was with the Rangers.

Other retirements include Ranger Ron Duff, Conroe, Co. A., after 26 years in the DPS and 13 as a Ranger; and Ranger Ron

Pettigrew, Co. B, Decatur, after 27 years DPS and six as a Ranger.

Transfers within the department include Wesley Doolittle (Co. A Conroe to Co. A Houston), Christopher Perkins (Co. F NW Austin to Co. A Conroe).

Also, Brian Burney (Co. E Midland to Co. E Odessa), Derek Leitner (Co. F Llano to Co. A Conroe) and Major Jeff Collins (Co. A Houston to HQ Austin).

Promotions include Jeremy Wallace (Trooper Gainsville to

Co. B Decatur), Nicholas Castle (Sgt. THP Tyler to Co. B Palestine), Corey Lain (Lt. Co. D Corpus to Capt., Administration HQ Austin), Gustavo Sanchez (Agent CID El Paso to Co. E Midland).

Also, Michael Smith (Sgt. THP to Co. F NW Austin), Sgt. Veronica Gideon (to Co. F NW Austin), Adam Russell (SWAT Austin to Co. F Killeen) and Brad Weatherford (CID agent to Co. F Victoria). The final four positions were to be effective Oct. 15.

## Director Emeritus



**Robert Dabney**

*Robert Dabney, a member of the TRAF board of directors since 1983, has been selected as a director emeritus. Dabney was nominated as a TRAF director by Ret. Capt. Jack Dean. Dabney represented Co. A in Houston and practiced law in Texas and other states 57 years, retiring in 2013.*



**Bob Stratmann**



**Joan Neuhaus  
Schaan**

## 2 new TRAF directors elected

Two new members have joined the Texas Ranger Association Foundation board of directors.

Joan Neuhaus Schaan is from Houston and will represent Co. A. She is the executive director of the William Stamps Farish Fund, which is a large private foundation benefitting Texas charities, particularly in the fields of health and education.

She is responsible for vetting grant proposals, working with grant recipients and reporting to the board of trustees.

Bob Stratmann has joined the board representing Headquarters. Bob is a lifelong Texan and lives in Georgetown. He has owned Stratmann & Associates since 1976 and specializes in valuation of residential real estate throughout Central Texas.

Schaan is a graduate of Williams, MA college and holds a MBA in business administration from Rice University. She has a background in financial, energy and security fields as well as being a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve.

She has also been involved with homeland security advisory projects and is a certified law enforcement instructor.

Schaan said, "The Texas Rangers have long been an organization of exceptional qualities and has been a cornerstone of our great state. In recent years I have become aware of the professionalism with which the Rangers deal with current challenges and threats.

"I'm honored to do my part to support these brave men and women and honor their legacy."

Schaan has a long history of working with school,

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### **Foundation** cont. from page 1

The five-stand champ was Rue Ferguson with 24 of 25. Individual winners were Anissa Banks high overall as well as top female (score of 99) and Keith Banks, runner up overall (score of 97).

Winners received commemorative belt buckles.

Co. E's shoot was held in San Angelo on Oct. 1 and raised \$67,000. The event hosted 144 shooters. Title sponsors were Lilly Construction and Tech Con Trenching. The live auction brought in \$27,000.

The event was coordinated by the ever-awesome volunteer Trish Aldridge. Other committee members were Directors Dave Wilson and Jerry and Susan Wellborn, Chairman Jim Chionsini, Joshua Tanner, Terry and Rodney Marsh and Danny Updike.

Food was provided by Cooks for Christ. We were honored to have the help of volunteers from the Goodfellows Air Force Base who were the station pullers.

Co. E winners were Dr. Michael Cornell, high overall (score of 99); Lt. Chris Clark, high Ranger (score of 85) and Reece Dusek, high overall youth (score of 92).

*Directors continued page 11*

## Chairman's Report --

# New directors, shoots huge help

By **Jim Chionsini**  
TRAF Chairman



*Jim Chionsini*

The past two years have seen tremendous progress in achieving our mission and many thanks go to our more recent additions to our TRAF Board of

Directors.

Co. D's clay shoot success is a credit to the Co. D Rangers and directors ably led by Rick Hernandez and his fantastic network of friends, colleagues, and the incredible

relationship he has helped forge with H-E-B.

He has also been instrumental in developing a well-rounded, engaged group of new directors to represent Co. D in Steve LaMantia, Trey Martinez, and Jay Wise.

Their expertise and support will hold TRAF in good stead for years to come in South Texas. For years our friend Joe York held that part of the state alone and now with the help of these new board members, Co. D is showing real gains in fundraising.

Joey McCarty, of Garden Ridge, is our newest director in Co. F. He demonstrated his commitment to the Texas Rangers and the foundation well before becoming a director by

advocating for scholarship funding with the Ed Rachal Foundation for the children of active Rangers.

To date the Ed Rachal Foundation has awarded TRAF \$250,000 over the past three years for the scholarship program. Joey also stepped up and secured several sponsorships for the recent Co. F clay shoot in San Antonio.

David Conlon of Co. F has lead by example as he and his wife, Teresa, continually and generously support the Rangers in whatever way is needed.

John Palmer of Southlake and Carl Lambert are also new additions to the board from Co. B and Headquarters, respectively. Each has hosted private

*Chairman continued page 12*

## Oilmen fishing tourney pays dividends to TRAF

The Texas Oilmen's Charity Invitational Fishing Tournament (TOCIFT) has once again named TRAF as a beneficiary of its annual event.

Even though this has been a challenging year in the oil and gas industry and entries for the tournament were significantly lower than in 2015, this group continues to support the Texas Rangers and the TRAF Scholarship Program.

A check in the amount of \$2,000 was presented to the Co A Rangers and TRAF by members of the TOCIFT.

The Texas Ranger Scholarship Fund has received a donation from TOCIFT since 2006. The first TOCIFT event was held in 2002 in Matagorda, Texas where it continues today.

Since 2002, more than \$6.5 million has been donated by The Texas Oilmen's Charity Invitational Fishing Tournament to various charities in the Texas Gulf Coast area. Please visit [www.tocift.org](http://www.tocift.org) for more information.



**Giving and receiving the Texas Oilmen Charity Fishing Tournament check for \$2,000 are (l-r) Co. A Sgts. Ryan Christian and Daron Parker, Co. A TRAF Director Constance White, Oilmen Director Curtis Denison, former Co. A Major Jeff Collins, Oilmen Director Joel Battle, Co. A Sgt. Wesley Doolittle and Oilmen Director John Blocker.**

# Retired Ranger is new Seminole chief

In September 2016, the Absentee Seminole Indian Tribe of Texas held its annual banquet in Brackettville, and Kinney County Judge Tully Shahan administered the oath of office to the five tribal council members, an assistant chief and principal chief.

The Principal Chief was none other than Retired Texas Ranger Lee Roy Young.

The Seminoles have a heritage of once being a part of the Seminole confederacy in the Florida Territory (late 1700s- late 1800s). In the 1840s, they were forced to leave Florida and travel by ship to New Orleans. Then by land, many probably walked from New Orleans to Arkansas and then into the Oklahoma Indian Territory.

Once in the Indian Territory, a treaty was made in Florida, revoking their freedom in the Indian Territory in Oklahoma. So, they departed from there in 1849, traveling to Mexico. In 1850, the Seminoles first entered Kinney County, camping near the Las Moras Springs.

Later in 1850, they crossed the Rio Grande River



*Retired Ranger Lee Roy Young*

and were received by the Mexican government as military colonists. Land was provided in exchange for protecting Mexico's northern border from hostiles coming from Texas.

The Black Seminoles became scouts for the U.S. Cavalry along the Texas Mexico border in 1870. Four of the scouts received the Medal of Honor during the Indian Wars. Lee Young is a direct descendant of Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. John Ward.

Today, there are many descendants living on the same land grant reservation in Mexico. In Mexico, they are known as Mascogos.

In 1988, Lee Young was sworn in as the first African-American to wear the Texas Ranger badge in modern history. After retiring from the Texas Rangers in 2003, Lee started his own private investigation firm based out of McKinney.

You can read more about this great Texas Ranger in his book "Lee Young: Memoirs of a Black Seminole Texas Ranger".

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## **Roles** *cont. from page 1*

Garland, replacing the retiring Major William (Tony) Bennie.

On his retirement, Bennie completed 30 years with the Texas Department of Public Safety and 20 years as a Ranger.

Major Collins followed his father into the DPS in 1989, receiving his commission in 1990. He was stationed as a trooper in Ellis County for five years, being promoted to the narcotics service in 1995 in El Paso. In 1998 he was promoted to the Rangers and assigned to Co. B in Greenville for nine years.

In 2007 he was promoted to lieutenant and assigned to establish the Joint Intelligence Center in El Paso where his father served as a Ranger for 20 years.

Collins served as captain of the Texas Ranger Recon Program in 2013 for 14 months before being promoted to major in Houston. He and his wife, Darcy have three sons, Christian, 21, Beau, 16 and Colby, 14.

Taylor joined the DPS in 1998 after graduating from Sam Houston State University and became a trooper in Anahuac and later transferring to New Caney.

Prior to being accepted into the Rangers, he served as sergeant/investigator with the special crimes service in Garland and the criminal intelligence service in Houston.

His first Ranger assignment was Co. F in Waco and later Co. A in Houston. He was promoted to lieutenant in 2011 and to captain

in 2014 with oversight of the newly formed PIU.

Huff began his law enforcement career in Orange County in 1983 as a deputy sheriff and city police officer before joining the DPS in September, 1989. As a trooper he was assigned to Humble, Dayton and Liberty. In 1995 Grover was promoted to highway patrol sergeant and stationed in Sinton.

In June, 1997 he was promoted to the Rangers and stationed in Liberty. He was promoted in 2013 to lieutenant of Co. A and assigned to Huntsville.

After becoming captain at headquarters in administration, he assumed oversight of the Ranger Division's to the new enterprise reporting system (SPURS).



*Ranger Trampas Gooding and son Morgan*



*Sisters Caitlyn and Wendi Locklar*

## 50 students on TRAF scholarships

There is no question that the Texas Ranger Association Foundation Scholarship Program continues to impact the children of active Texas Rangers!

This 2016 Fall Class represents one of our largest with 50 students being awarded a scholarship. There are 35 returning students and 15 new students, representing a total of \$98,500 being designated.

With the increased number of Texas Rangers across the State, we anticipate that this number of scholarships should stay consistent for the next several years.

Each full-time student receives \$2,000 per semester and is required to make a 2.0 grade point each semester to continue the scholarship. The average grade point of our Spring semester students was a 3.26!

"We are all so proud of our recipients," said TRAF scholarship chairman Constance White. "They are all working hard, and their Ranger parents are appreciative of the additional TRAF support. It is always a pleasure to see them volunteer at the reunion or at a Ranger Company event.

"I want to thank Liz Myrick and the TRAF Scholarship Committee for continuing the exceptional job of managing the TRAF Scholarship Fund Program. Thank you to the Rangers, directors and benefactors for continuing to raise awareness and funds for our program. With the increased number of scholarships it is all the more important! Thank you!"

Wendi Leigh Locklar is a sophomore at Texas A&M University at College Station. She plans to major in Visualization, with her goal to being a concept artist.

She is active in the professional organization ACM SIGGRAPH, which allows her to network with future colleagues in her desired profession. This past summer she was employed at Prude Youth Camp as an art director.

"This scholarship has really helped me be able to afford

pursuing my dream of working for Pixar Animation Studios. I am very grateful that this opportunity has been given to me," Wendi said.

Wendi's older sister, Caitlyn Locklar, was also a TRAF Scholarship recipient. She is no longer a recipient, while taking graduate courses at Texas A&M. She is scheduled for graduation in May 2017. She is involved in several student organizations including Aggie Women in Leadership.

She also served as a team member and risk management officer on the Texas A&M Sailing Team. Following graduation, Caitlyn, will be employed by Price Waterhouse Coopers in Austin.

Wendi and Caitlyn are the daughters of Texas Ranger Burleigh Locklar Jr., HQ Company.

Morgan Lyn Gooding is a junior at Texas A&M University at College Station. He plans to major in general studies with the intention of committing to Applied Exercise Science under the Department of Health & Kinesiology.

He plans to become a physical therapist and personal trainer to help rehabilitate and strengthen people in need. Morgan has been an active volunteer with the Texas Ranger Association Foundation, most recently at the Co. F Texas Ranger Classic.

Along with his father, Texas Ranger Trampas Gooding, they assisted with a shooting station and were successful in securing donations while adding lots of fun to the overall experience for each team.

"By awarding me the TRAF scholarship you have lightened my financial burden so that I may depend less on the financial assistance of my parents and become more of an independent adult. Your generosity has motivated me to do my very best, while making sure to stay involved and give back to my community," Morgan said.

## Executive Director's Report --

## Date for 2017 reunion already set



By Liz Myrick, TRAF Executive Director

It seems the June reunion just wrapped up and yet we're in the process of negotiating contracts and gearing up for the 2017 Reunion. Save the date! It will be on June 9-10, 2017. We are seeking a speaker and welcome suggestions to make this one the best yet!

The TRAF Winter director's meeting will be in February or possibly early March. To make it convenient for the Rangers, we are working on a venue that is centrally located in Texas.

This is especially important because the meeting will be during the legislative session, which may require our Ranger liaisons to be called on with short notice.

I'm conferring with Chief Prince and the executive committee and getting proposals from venues. We will send out notification as soon as possible.

The autumn clay shoots for Co. "D", Co. "F", and Co. "E" have been outstanding. A huge thank you goes to all the Rangers, directors, and supporters for making these so successful!

With each event we learn new things about how to make the next one even better! So you won't want to miss the next one! Proceeds from the clay shoots go to

support the TRAF programs like scholarships, Ranger assistance, and the Reunion.

We have awarded 49 scholarships for the fall 2016 semester. As we centralize the scholarship program in the TRAF office, I am grateful to the scholarship committee and Chair Constance White for her support.

And I am thankful for the opportunity to get better acquainted with the children of the Texas Rangers. It is very rewarding to get to know this fine group of students, and to share in their goals and dreams.

While the communication is often brief, I am rooting for each and every one of them and their success, as is our board of directors.

Over \$27,000 has been awarded in 2016 for our Ranger assistance program for active and retired Rangers.

Finally, we are in a time fraught with unrest, and our news and social media feeds are filled with conflict and vitriol.

And I am reminded why long-standing institutions like the Texas Rangers, and the men and women who uphold their traditions of honor, integrity, and valor are even more valuable to our collective identity as Americans.

We are so fortunate to be under the protection of this bastion of excellence, our Texas Rangers.

**CORRECTION:**

We regret a spelling error in our last Star Journal which mis-identified Bill Lindig and Lindig Construction, our most recent distinguished benefactor of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

Bill was recruited by TRAF director Dave Conlon, who brought the misspelling to our attention.

Sorry about that miscue, Bill. Again, thanks for your generous membership.

*TEXAS RANGER Chief Randy Prince joined Veta and Bob Stratmann at the TRAF table Wednesday, Oct. 12, at the Texas Heroes for Children Gala for the National Missing and Exploited Children in Austin. The Stratmanns represented TRAF at the foundation's table to honor those highlighted for assisting abused children in the state. Stratmann is a new TRAF director.*

## Ranger Hall and Museum Report --

# Ranger museum a treasure trove

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



**Byron Johnson**

In 1836, a 19-year-old surveyor rode into Nacogdoches after the Battle of San Jacinto and met with Sam Houston. The young man, Jack Coffee Hays of Tennessee, was the grandnephew of Andrew Jackson, who wrote a letter of introduction attesting to his qualities as a frontiersman.

Hays was not physically impressive. He was about 5-9, beardless and slight of frame when the stereotype of Texas Rangers was "wild and robust" 6-foot males.

Little wonder his first assignment was in the Army of Texas on graves detail to bury the dead from Goliad. But looks were deceiving. Seeking adventure and advancement, Hays traveled to San Antonio and joined Deaf Smith's Company of Rangers.

Ranger Hays rose quickly from sergeant to commanding his own Texas Ranger companies. In the 13 years spent in Texas he became, a popular sensation featured in books and songs.

He introduced Colt repeating pistols and rifles to the Rangers, revolutionizing Indian warfare and changing the history of the West. As a surveyor he plotted huge tracts of land for the master map of Texas, the Bexar County Map.

Capt. Hays became Col. Hays of US Volunteers during the US-Mexican War. Reporters embedded with the US Army wrote up his exploits as commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiments of Texas Rangers.

After actions at Monterrey, Veracruz and Mexico City, he became a national media sensation. He and his men may have technically been US Army Volunteers, but their "highly irregular" dress, deportment and style of guerilla warfare identified them first and foremost as Texas Rangers.

After Independence and the Mexican War, Texas became dull for Jack Hays. In 1849, at age 32 he led a party of '49ers from Texas to California. Settling into San Francisco with a new wife, he ran for sheriff in 1850 winning re-elections three times. Shortly after winning in 1851, he or an admirer commissioned a remarkable portrait from William Smith Jewett (1812-1873) one of the first professional artists in California.

In Jewett's painting Col. Hays sits dressed in buckskin



**160-year-old painting of Ranger Jack Hayes**

on a mountaintop, rifle in hand and a Colt's repeater nearby. The style is Biblical, similar to ones depicting frontiersmen like Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett. Small figures, traditionally identified as Comanches, are approaching in the distance.

Legend holds that, in 1841, Hays led a survey crew or a ranging company near Enchanted Rock in the Texas hill country. He was trapped by a party of Comanche warriors, variously reported as "a few" to more than 100.

Armed only with two single-shot pistols, not repeaters, and a plains rifle he managed to hold them off until rescued.

Some historians cast doubt that it happened, but it seems unlikely that Hays would have sanctioned the painting of an entirely fictional event.

More likely as an oral tradition "Jack Hays at Enchanted

*Treasure continued page 11*

# TRAF scores another \$25,000 Houston grant

The Texas Ranger Association Foundation has been notified that the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has once again approved a \$25,000 grant award for 2017.

"We're pleased to inform you the Educational Contributions Review Committee has approved your grant request," said Katelyn Scates, manager of grants for the livestock show.

Liz Myrick, TRAF executive director said, "Many thanks to Constance White, who serves on that committee, and to emeritus director Randy Watson for their assistance in the application.

Chief Randy Prince said, "On behalf of the Texas Rangers, thank you Constance and Randy for your assistance in securing this grant award. We understand these gifts just do not occur, but are given in deference and regard to individuals like yourself.

"We also appreciate the ongoing fundraising efforts by all the TRAF directors and their selfless pursuit of support to each of us and our families."

"The hard work and efforts to raise monies at the company level has been impressive. The company commanders are proud of their directors and make modest references to achievements. Thank you again."



## **Prince** cont. from page 2

local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors with criminal investigations, especially violent criminal acts such as murder, sexual assault, assault and kidnappings.

With symmetry and balance of duties, we are solving some of the most horrific crimes and corruption in the state by working through the complexities of drug trafficking, street gangs and transnational criminal organizations to produce fact finding investigations for criminal prosecution.

A calamitous example of these responsibilities occurred on July 7, 2016. The Texas Ranger Major Crime Scene Team responded to assist the Dallas Police Department with investigating the killing of five police officers and the serious injuries to many others.

All Ranger assets were offered at the request of our governor, to include our State Crash Team and the Texas Ranger Division, which worked tirelessly over the course of three days to create a three-dimensional crime scene representation.

Numerous crime scenes within an overall documented area created an unprecedented complexity in scene reconstruction that likely

would have been unachievable without the state-of-the-art laser scanning instrumentation now in use by the Texas Rangers.

This technology produces a comprehensive digital presentation showing various points of view to include the fluid chronology of the changing positions of police officers, civilians and the assailant as events unfolded.

The Department of Public Safety, inclusive of SWAT and SRT-1, also provided added protection to other police officers and families attending police funerals throughout the metropolis.

Lt. Derek Prestridge, with the *Texas Ranger Crimes against Children Center*, accepted an award on Sept. 22nd at a banquet in Washington D.C. for his role in developing and instructing the Interdiction for the Protection of Children program taught across the nation.

It was a first ever "Heroes Award" given out by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and was to recognize excellence in law enforcement and to those who have contributed in a significant way to finding missing children or stopping

the exploitation of children.

Lt. Prestridge, specifically, was honored for his training course that uses insight in criminal and victim behavior to help law enforcement spot victims hidden in plain sight -- children who have been abducted or forced into child sex trafficking.

The training is complemented with Texas Ranger Cody Mitchell and has led to the rescue of multiple children.

This nation was founded on the principles that all are created equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights. The duties performed by our professional and dedicated police officers and support personnel are vital to the prosperity of the citizens in this great state.

We are facing challenges like never before, but I am confident that our men and women represent the best in professionalism and dedication to duty. It is the unwavering acceptance of responsibility to protect and serve the public that will carry our legacy and reputation.

Please stay safe and know that we recognize your unconditional support to law enforcement, and moreover, to the Texas Rangers.

## Letters to TRAF

### Dear TRAF:

I am writing to you in the wake of the horrendous law enforcement shootings in Dallas and Baton Rouge.

I would like to thank you for all the continued support of law enforcement, and more specifically the Texas Rangers, in these trying times. Times where law enforcement is not always seen as good or even right.

Times when media crucifies law enforcement and then people rush to judgment. Times where a hashtag means more than a life.

It is during these "times" that your support of our Rangers and law enforcement serves as a reminder to all lawmen that there are good people that do and act for what they stand for.

The job of law enforcement is like no other. They run toward tragedy while civilians run away from it. There is no better example than the Dallas and Baton Rouge shootings.

In the videos that were taken in Dallas you can see hundreds of people running away from the gunfire, but you can also see police running toward the gunfire, directing traffic and trying to get people to safety despite the danger to themselves.

I've also seen this countless times with my step-dad, Nick Hanna. They do this even though there has been an obvious anti-law enforcement rhetoric created; a rhetoric that has not been stopped but rather encouraged by our leaders. Something that law enforcement officers and their families are having to deal with now.

My hope is that people will begin to do their own research and see that lawmen do not see color, but rather what is right and wrong.

I hope they realize that the overwhelming majority of law enforcement are amazing people and are willing to give their time and their lives for the public's safety.

The officers' actions in Dallas and Baton Rouge are a reflection of the true heart of law enforcement.

I am of the belief that America does not have a gun problem, a law enforcement problem or even a race problem, but rather a heart problem.

It says in Proverbs 4:23, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows through it."

I believe if more people guarded their hearts such as you all have, then America would not be facing these trying times. There are many things that have failed in this great nation.

However, law enforcement is not one of them, and again I thank you for realizing that and supporting it.

I also would like to pledge that as a recipient of your generosity, your example has not only assisted me with

my college efforts, but it has provided a life lesson to me to help others.

I intend to "pay it forward" as I move ahead to new stations in my life. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,  
Brady Clark

### Dear TRAF:

Thank you so much for offering me a scholarship for the 2016-2017 school year. I am now a sophomore at Texas A&M, pursuing a degree in visualization, and I could not have pursued my dreams without your help.

My goal is to be a concept artist at Pixar Animation Studios, and the education that I am getting here at Texas A&M will help me get there.

I am currently a member of a professional organization called SIGGRAPH, which allows me to network with future colleagues in addition to bringing in industry professionals who we are able to meet with and ask questions we have about the profession.

This scholarship has really helped me afford pursuing my dream of working for Pixar, and I am grateful that this opportunity has been provided to me.

Thanks to this scholarship, I am able to go to school with my sister and learn at one of the most beautiful places I've ever known.

Thanks for all you do.

Wendi Locklar '19

### Dear TRAF:

Thank you once again for assisting me and my family in my pursuit of a four-year college degree.

With your assistance, I was able to graduate from Lufkin's Angelina College with an Associate's Degree. I will be continuing my education this fall at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA).

I will continue my pursuit of a bachelor's degree and a career in and around sports and athletics. In the fall, I'll be living on campus as a full-time student.

I will be a student trainer and work part-time as a student assistant for SFA's sports information department.

I appreciate all you have done to help sons and daughters of Texas Rangers.

Tyler Rayburn,  
Lufkin

### Dear TRAF:

I wanted to take a moment to thank you, the Board of Directors, and Members of TRAF for the assistance that

*Letters continued page 11*

**Treasure** *cont. from page 8*

Rock" was enhanced in the telling and retelling. To paraphrase the film Liberty Valance, when legend became fact, Jewett chose to paint the legend.

Hays kept the painting until his death in 1883, after which it passed to his descendants. Fortunately, fate decreed that 110 years later the painting would permanently reside in Texas.

In May of 1993 banker and history enthusiast Bob Thornton of Dallas and wife Vera were on a bird photography trip around Sisters, Oregon. They chanced to meet Mrs. Roblay McMullin, 88, who was interested to learn that they were from Texas.

On a visit to her home she stunned the Thorntons by showing them Jewett's painting of Jack Hays and a .41 caliber Wesson rifle matching the one in the painting. Mrs. McMullin identified herself as the widow of Jack Hay's grandson.

Several California museums had asked for the painting because of its Gold Rush history. The Thorntons gently suggested that, instead, Capt. Jack should return to Texas.

On her death, Mrs. McMullen donated the painting to the state museum of the Texas Rangers in Waco. Today, 160 years after it was painted on the Barbary Coast of California, the painting belongs to the people of Texas, thanks to Mrs. McMullin and the Thorntons.

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**Directors** *cont. from page 3*

service and non-profit organizations.

Stratmann grew up in South Texas and moved "north" to attend Texas A&M where he earned a BBA and MBA in real estate economics and returned to Corpus Christi to join his father in real estate appraisal.

"My father instilled in me the spirit to serve God and country," Bob said. "I've had the pleasure to serve scouting, church ministries, Young Life, Patriot Riders and most recently Patriot Outfitters, a faith-based ministry to members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"We facilitate outdoor-based retreats which are centered around our need for faith in God.

"This ministry has taught me that our combat veterans face challenges that those of us in our daily world never encounter.

"The past several years of membership in TRAF have also introduced me to some of the best men and women I have ever known — Texas Rangers — and those who support them. I look forward to being on the board and continue TRAF's missions."

**Obituary --**

# Ronald Lewis Snyder

**Services are held for Ranger's dad**

Funeral services were held Sept. 8 for Ronald Lewis Snyder, 66, father of Texas Ranger Major Todd Snyder, Co. C in Lubbock.

A register for signatures or remembrances was established at McCoy's funeral Home in Sweetwater. Graveside services were held in Roscoe.

Donations may be made to the Disabled American Veterans or Shriner's Hospital for Children.

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**Letters** *cont. from page 10*

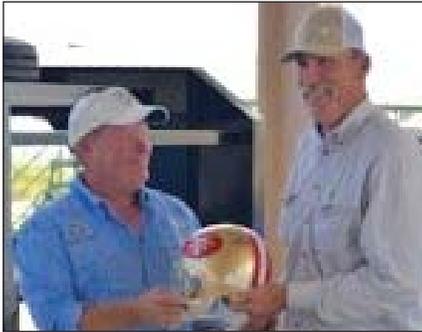
was provided to my family and me as we battled cancer together. As an otherwise healthy 44 year old, it was a shock to learn in February that I had thyroid cancer in not only my thyroid, but in several tumors in my chest. The anxiety of doctor's appointments, "scans" of every sort, blood work seemingly once a week and then finally surgery was rough on my crew, but through Gods grace we are nearing the end of this fight!

When I promoted into the Rangers in 2013, it was a professional dream come true. I've experienced Brotherhood in a whole new way. There was not a day that went by that I didn't receive a kind visit, phone call, email or text letting me know that I was not alone and that my extended family was there praying for me. Everyone, from Chief Prince checking on me regularly down to Joe Haralson, who was by my wife's side when I awoke from surgery, reminded me just how special a "Family" I'm a part of. And I thank you and everyone at TRAF for being a part of our family. I just don't have words to express how grateful we are for all you have done for us.

I've had a fantastic 21-year career in law enforcement and have had the opportunity to work with some of the finest police officers in the world. Thanks to God, my wonderful family, a great team at Methodist and Baylor, and you, my family at TRAF, I've got a lot of new friendships, challenging cases, and good BBQ (I just couldn't leave that out) to look forward to!

From Mary Beth, Marshall, Walker, Mattie, and myself  
thank you for all you do,  
Brandon Bess

# Scenes from the Co. E Sporting Clay Shoot



**TRAF DIRECTOR** Dave Wilson holds a San Francisco 49ers helmet with former player Pierce Holt. Holt lives in San Angelo and played college ball for Angelo State and later the 49ers and Atlanta Falcons. He's also a new TRAF benefactor who was one of the big buyers in the Co. E auction.



**LT. CHRIS** Clark was the high scoring Ranger in the Co. E clay shoots, hitting 85 out of 100. He's shown with Trish Aldridge, a TRAF benefactor, a volunteer organizer and coordinator at the San Angelo shoot. Lt. Clark is stationed in Midland.



**RANGER NICK** Hanna, new benefactor Pierce Holt and Co. E Major Crayton McGee were all participants in the clay shoot in San Angelo. Ranger Hanna was a donor of several auction items and Holt was a successful bidder on an engraved Model 1911 Colt .45 calibre pistol. McGee's company covers much of West Texas all the way to El Paso.



**LT. JASON** Dudley and Ranger Robert Losoya, at left, also participated in the Co. E clay shoots. Dr. Michael Cornell was the High Over All scorer, snaring 99 out of 100 clays. The San Angelo shoot, along with ones held in Edinburg and San Antonio made \$185,000 to fund the TRAF programs involving scholarships and in assistance to retired and active Rangers in time of need.

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## Chairman *cont. from page 4*

events bringing new supporters and benefactors to the foundation.

Hayden Elder, Co B, also a new director, and has been supporting TRAF and the Rangers for years with discounts and donations on vehicles for our raffles. As a director, I know he's at the ready to help with whatever the Rangers might need and contribute in Co. B's next endeavor.

Joining our board in August is Joan Neuhaus Schaan of Houston representing Co. A. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience about foundations. Her stellar reputation precedes her, and I'm looking forward to getting better acquainted and working with her to perpetuate TRAF's mission.

Finally, our newest director is Bob Stratmann of Georgetown. As a director he represents Headquarters.

His career is in real estate, and with a lifetime of volunteerism, he brings to TRAF his experience, an extraordinary work ethic, and a servant's heart. "My father instilled in me the spirit of service to God, family and country."

We owe a debt of gratitude for all the work the chief,

majors, and Rangers have done to help identify, educate and recruit these outstanding individuals to serve on our board of directors.

It will in turn make us stronger to do the good work for our Texas Rangers.

We are fortunate to have directors with so much longevity with the foundation. Their years of commitment to the Texas Rangers and their fortitude as directors are unmatched by any other nonprofit board I know.

We owe them much respect and gratitude. And as an organization moving forward, we are full of promise thanks to the enthusiasm, experience and other countless resources these new directors bring to us. Blending experience and enthusiasm is an unbeatable combination.

Macy and I spent a couple days in the Norfolk area with SEAL Command Master Chief Chris Brownell, who you'll remember attended the reunion a few years ago.

As a native Texan, he appreciates all the fine work being done by the Rangers and wanted me to give his regards to them and the TRAF benefactors and staff.

# Scenes from the Co. D Shoot



**CO. D DIRECTORS** Rick Hernandez and Trey Martinez (both on left end) had a big group of Rangers turn out for the Co. D shoot. Hernandez is employed at H-E-B, which was one of the \$25,000 title sponsors for the shoot. Rangers (l-r) are Lt. Rick Rivera, Cody Langford, Tony DeLuna, Donor Alvaro Gonzales (and guest), Lt. Corey Lain, Nathan Mutz, Major Brian Burzynski, Ryan Kindell, Randy Aguirre, Chris Calloway, Roland Villarreal, and Joe Sanchez.



**MAJOR BRIAN BURZYNSKI** of Co. D presents the high over all ladies championship buckle to Shea Self.



**STEVE LAMANTIA**, a director in TRAF representing Co. D, organized a team for the shoot. They were Bobby Casso, Adam Alaniz, LaMantia and Gilbert Alaniz.



**TREY MARTINEZ**, one of the Co. D directors, had a group of his pals out for the shooting competition. They include Tomas Tijerina, Eduardo Ortiz, Xavier Anderson, Joe de la Garza, Matthew Andrews (partly hidden), Mike Guerra, Director Martinez, Gus Elizondo, Nick Garza, Joe Arreola, Judge Rolando Olvera and Jonathan Gully.



**FLURRY SHOOTING** champions at the Co. D sporting clay tournament in Edinburg were (l-r) Chat Cooley, Cole Cooley, J.V. Carrillo and Rick Bailey. They hit 28 of 30 clays.

# Scenes from the Co. F Clay Shoot



*TEXAS RANGERS* were out to support the Co. F clay shoot in San Antonio. Lending a hand and also doing some shooting of their own were (l-r) Lt. Jaime Downs, Ranger Shane Staley, Lt. Corey Lain, Retired Ranger Robert Hunter, Retired Ranger John Martin, Retired Capt. Jack Dean, Retired Lt. Jesse Valdez, Retired Ranger Rudy Jaramillo, Ranger Trampas Gooding, Ranger Joel Kite, Retired Ranger Jimmy Schroeder and Major Chance Collins.



*TEAM TRAF* members at the Co. F shoot included executive director Liz Myrick, director Dave Wilson, Co. F director Dave Conlon and Teresa Conlon.



*MAJOR CHANCE* Collins (left) and Co. F Clay shoot chairman Tom Schleier present the High Over All buckle to Anissa Banks, who shot an amazing 99 clays out of 100 to win the second annual shooting tournament.



*TEAM RUDY* Jaramillo had a big day shooting. Members of that team were Ranger Randy Aguirre, Stephen Thode, Retired Ranger Rudy Jaramillo and Lt. Corey Lain.