



www.thetexasrangers.org • December 2017 • Issue 20

'Remarkable people in Ranger Division'

By Randy Prince
Chief, Texas Rangers



Randy Prince

As we approach the year end of 2017, I would like to take a moment and recognize the remarkable men and women in our division. It is an honor and pleasure to work with such an outstanding cadre of officers and non-commissioned professionals who give so much of themselves to our state on a daily basis.

I am also mindful that during the holidays when others celebrate and reunite with loved ones, many of our personnel are working around the clock.

I won't attempt to detail all of the exceptional work, for there have been many examples — but I would like to acknowledge a few of the acts of selfless service displayed this year.

Hurricane Harvey brought unprecedented devastation to Southeast Texas, including homes of several members of our own Ranger family. Our steadfast response, tactical planning and leadership by our field personnel had a reverberating goal, and no doubt saved lives.

As Rangers stepped up — so did our TRAF directors. I witnessed a magnanimous response from our foundation members as they provided assistance to our employees who were affected by the catastrophic flooding, and I could not be more thankful for all they have done and continue to do for us.

The professional response to the tragic and cataclysmic event in Sutherland Springs, where 26 parishioners were murdered during worship service at a local church was exceptional. Once again our personnel displayed character as they lead the investigative efforts to help a community so devastated by the loss of life.

I have received countless calls, emails and personal visits from elected officials, citizens and law enforcement praising the men and women of our division for their unmatched professionalism and investigative competencies.

Unfortunately, the recent fatal shooting of our trooper in Freestone County created sadness by this intended and senseless act, which continues to echo repeatedly throughout the department.

Texas Rangers responded and provided crime scene documentation and reconstruction, and though it is expected, it was profoundly notable to see our Rangers work this difficult scene with poise, acute focus and professionalism.

To the retirees, we stand tall on the establishment you, in part, shaped and we will always carry the badge with courage and confidence in your honor.

Again, on behalf of the Ranger leadership team, I want to express my deep appreciation to every member of the Ranger family — from our non-commissioned staff that performs critical functions of the division to the commissioned members who dedicate countless hours securing our communities.

Each of you are vital to bringing peace to our citizens and justice to the victims of felonious crime.

Thank you and God Bless.

TRAF display provided by Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Livestock show hikes TRAF grant \$10k



The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo has one again made a generous pledge to the Texas Rangers Association Foundation, increasing its grant to \$35,000, up \$10,000 over 2016.

The grant is designated to enhance TRAF's outreach and education programs.

This area includes the print version of the quarterly Star Journal, the website maintenance and enhancements, as well as future communication and educational materials

produced by TRAF.

The Houston show provided \$25 million in 2017 to Texas scholarships and community programs. The show has more than 33,000 volunteers.

A TRAF mobile display which accompanies this article was underwritten by the livestock show and rodeo, and is on display throughout the show and rodeo run as well as various events across the state.

OBITS

Lori Hailey Marberry, daughter of Retired Ranger Jimmy Hailey dies at 45

Retired Ranger Lt. Jimmy Hailey's daughter, Lori Hailey Marberry, 45, died Nov. 28 in a single car accident in College Station.

A visitation was held at Hiller Funeral Home in College Station and the funeral was a private family gathering at the grave site.

Lori leaves behind a 17-year-old daughter.

Chairman's report -

Ranger star shines bright over Texas

By Constance White
TRAF Chairman



Constance White

*The stars at night are big and bright
Deep in the heart of Texas
The Sage in bloom is like perfume
Deep in the heart of Texas
Reminds me of - the one I love
Deep in the heart of Texas
-first verse, Deep in the Heart of Texas*

This musical hit, originating in 1941, lives on in our Texas hearts today. I can imagine this would have been a top tune had the early day Texas Rangers known these lyrics as they were camping under the big Texas sky with the stars shining brightly, while being

The star, through its luminous beauty, would also comfort families waiting for their loved ones to return.

The Ranger Star is a symbol for safety, peace and protection. In the last few months our Texas Rangers have been called to navigate unexpected dark days, many in their professional commitment to the citizens of Texas, and some Rangers, both active and retired, in their own personal circumstances.

The Texas Ranger Association Foundation has been a steady companion along the way through our support and love.

During this holiday season let's be mindful of the comfort that our wise men and women who wear the Star bring to the Lone Star State. May they always navigate their way safely home.

*Then the traveler in the dark,
Thanks you for your tiny spark,
He could not see which way to go,
If you did not twinkle so.
-third verse, Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.*

Thank you, Texas Rangers. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

far from home.

The star is a symbol of hope and for thousands of years the star has been used for light and navigation. The star was trusted and would guide travelers to their destinations with confidence and assurance.



Ranger Chief Prince announces Promotions

TEXAS RANGER Chief Randy Prince has announced the promotions of two Rangers. Antonio Deluna of Co. D in Corpus Christi has been promoted to lieutenant in Corpus. Ranger Rolando Villarreal of Co. D Edinburg has been promoted to lieutenant, Co. D, El Paso.



Antonio Deluna



Rolando Villarreal

TRAF scholar recipients earn post-grad degrees

TRAF is proud of all of the scholarship recipients. Featured in this edition are two outstanding TRAF alumni who have earned post-graduate degrees.

Heather Martin, PhD

Heather Martin is the daughter of Retired Texas Ranger Chief Hank Whitman. She received a TRAF scholarship from the year 2000 until she graduated from Portland State University in 2002, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts and Letters Degree with a Spanish major.

Upon graduation, Heather joined the United States Air Force where she spent her career until retirement in 2011 with the rank of Captain. She also has her master's degree in International Relations from Troy University.

Since transitioning from active duty to civilian service, Heather has been employed at the U.S. Department of Defense under the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

In October, Heather received her International Development Doctorate Degree with a major in security studies from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Heather and her husband Carl have two sons, Logan and Carter. She has been invited to be a special guest speaker at the Texas Ranger Reunion in June 2018.

Logan Leal, JD

Logan Leal is the daughter of Retired Texas Ranger Chief Tony Leal. She received a TRAF scholarship during the academic year of 2010-2011, and she graduated from Texas State University Suma Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in psychology in 2014.

Following graduation, Logan attended the University of Texas School of Law and received her Juris Doctorate Degree in June 2017. She became a licensed attorney in November and is employed by Gray, Reed and McGraw in Houston, where she practices commercial litigation.

Logan's older sister Lindsay and brother Tony were also on TRAF scholarships when their father was an active Texas Ranger. Lindsay is an educator today, and Tony is a Texas Ranger as of June 2017.



LEFT PHOTO: Heather Martin is pictured with her family, sons (l-r) Carter and Logan, and her husband Carl during the Thanksgiving holiday.



RIGHT PHOTO: Logan Leal (center) is pictured with her family members after her swearing in ceremony in November. (l-r) Parents Tony and Coco Leal, youngest sister Lynden, and her older sister and brother-in-law Lindsay and Richard Franco.

3 new directors Join TRAF board

Three new directors have been named to the board of the Texas Ranger Association Foundation. Two are joining Co. D and were nominated by director Rick Hernandez and Major Brian Burzynski. The third is joining Co. E and was nominated by director Jerry Wellborn and Major Crayton McGee.

Jorge L. Cisneros

Jorge L. Cisneros (J.L.) has been a huge supporter of TRAF fundraising events for the past three years. He has hosted the Co. D V.I.P. dinner each year and has donated his services as well as those of his employees who assist in the logistics of the Texas Ranger Classic.

Jorge is a native of Brownsville who now resides in McAllen. He served 24 years with the FBI and was stationed in Miami, Fla., Brownsville and McAllen.

During his FBI career, he served in several capacities, including border liaison officer, whose responsibilities included the capture of fugitives into Mexico and the recovery of kidnapped U.S. citizens who were in Mexico.

During his tenure as a liaison officer, J.L. was able to recover over 400 U.S. Citizens who were kidnapped or fugitives who had escaped into Mexico to avoid capture and prosecution.

Since his retirement from the FBI and for the past 7 years, J.L. is the Owner/CEO of Safe Global Services, which is a company that provides executive protection, GPS monitoring, security assessments and training for employees of U.S. companies conducting business in Mexico.

Jorge is married to Jo Paige Cisneros and is the father of Alex and Ellie Cisneros. Alex is a junior at Auburn University and Ellie is a senior at Lamar IB Academy in McAllen.

Alvaro Gonzales

Alvaro Gonzalez has been a productive supporter of TRAF during the Co. D Texas Ranger Classic. His monetary donation to our event and his sharing of bank president contacts, who also donated, helped raise the \$74K in profit that were achieved.

Alvaro Gonzalez is a wealth advisor for Merrill Lynch where he has worked for 35 years. Alvaro is active in the community and serves on the board of Our Lady of Sor-

rows Catholic Church in McAllen.

Alvaro and his wife, Irma, assist in the McAllen area by donating food, school supplies, clothing and necessary household items to impoverished "colonias" (undeveloped communities).

Alvaro and Irma have been married 36 years and are the parents of 3 sons, Abelardo, Alvaro II and Aaron. His sons have also followed in their dad's footsteps and are wealth advisors for Merrill Lynch.

Larry Horwood

Larry Horwood lives in Sterling City and owns Horwood Ranch Co., which operates ranches in Sterling, Glasscock, Mitchell, Hall, Briscoe and Clay counties, covering more than 120,000 acres.

He has been a member of the National Resources Soil and Water conservation system for 35 years and has been a director of the Texas Southwest Cattle Raisers Association for 15 years.

He has been in ranching since 1983 with family members, including his father, Stan. He and his wife, Linda, have three sons, Lyle, 27, who runs the Clay County ranching operation; Lane, 23, who works for ASCO Leasing and is also mayor of Sterling City; and Lathen, 20, who attends South Plains College in Lubbock.

Larry has been involved in Sterling City financing programs, and looks forward to "helping Texas Rangers, Co. E and their families."

He also said he wants to lend his support to the Texas Rangers and all law enforcement agencies, including the Special Rangers of the SWCRA.

Texas Ranger Association Foundation *Star Journal*

Constance White, Chairman
Dave Wilson, Vice Chairman
Rick Hernandez, Treasurer
Thomas Schleier, Secretary
Liz Myrick, Executive Director
Bill Hartman, Editor

104 Texas Ranger Trail • Waco, Texas 76706
(254) 752-1001

Hall of Fame and Museum - Ranger complex top Central Texas Site

By Byron A. Johnson
Museum Director



Byron Johnson

FY2016-17 was an outstanding year for the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum. It is America's first law enforcement historical center, the official State museum of the Texas Rangers, the nation's first dedicated law enforcement library and archives, a State Hall of Fame and a training and banquet center.

The 15 staff members are remarkable, operating it 362 days a year 17 hours a day. We are also proud of our relationships and partners, the Texas Rangers whose legacy we are honored to represent and the Texas Ranger Association Foundation.

Both organizations are dedicated to education, preservation and service. They have our thanks for making this a productive year.

Interest in the history and heritage of the Texas Rangers is strong. This year we project more than 87,000 visitors originating worldwide—our largest number in 50 years. School tours have returned to pre-recession levels with classes on field trips from the Panhandle to the Gulf Coast.

"Education in Action," a wonderful nonprofit school field trip sponsor, has brought down more than 6,500 students a year for the last two years from the Dallas-Fort Worth area to study the American Heritage that is the Texas Rangers.

Staff has worked hard to refresh exhibits and provide exceptional experiences for visitors. It has been successful. In 2017 the national travel site TripAdvisor presented Texas Ranger Hall of Fame with a Certificate of Excellence for achieving a 93 percent good-to-excellent ranking from visitors.

The US and British travel site, ThreeBestRated, designated the museum as one of its top Central Texas attractions. Even Chip and Joanna Gaines of Fixer Upper named the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame their favorite local place.

Once again the City of Waco reiterated its support by funding a new sign and monument to the Texas Rangers towering over I-35. Funded by a \$145,000 grant from the City of Waco, it bears a current Texas Ranger badge with the permission of Texas DPS.

Planning and initiatives are well underway for the Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ in 2023. A Texas Ranger Bicentennial™ book program approved by Texas DPS has recognized the publication of two outstanding books by the University of North Texas Press: "Texas Rangers: Lives, Legend and Legacy," by Bob Alexander and Donaly Brice and "The Ranger Ideal: Rangers in the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame 1823-1861," by Darren Ivey.

Three additional books are in the pipeline. "Texas Rangers" was named one of the best western history books for 2017 by True West magazine.

Another initiative is to secure a US Postal Service Commemorative Stamp for the Texas Ranger Bicentennial. A formal application was filed with the US Postal Service with endorsements by Governor Abbott, Robert Duvall, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Rep. Bill Flores and members of the Texas House of Representatives and Senators Cruz and Cornyn.

Grants from the Fiat-Chrysler Foundation and Texas Ranger Association Foundation provided funding for the renovation of exhibits. Distinguished Service recognizing the retired Texas Rangers (texasrangerregister.org) with rotating displays of artifacts was completed. The first phase of The Lone Ranger, an exhibit on the Taylor Collection of Lone Ranger artifacts was completed.

"Discovering the Legend," a successful television series on the Texas Rangers produced by staff and Waco City Cable Television, wrapped its 26th episode. The series is distributed to 50-plus cable channels in Texas.

A unique painting of Sam Houston was restored through the generosity of J. Fred Bucy III and family. Painted between 1846 and 1859 by artist Edward Schnabel, when Houston was a US Senator, Houston regarded it as the finest likeness ever done of him.

The Tobin and Anne Armstrong Texas Ranger Research Center celebrated its 5th year. It works with 2,000 to 4,000 family genealogists a year searching for Ranger ancestors; authors writing books, articles and producing television shows and movies; and teachers and students from elementary to graduate school. This year two of the leading Texas Ranger historians transferred their libraries to the Armstrong Center and it received gifts of books, documents and photographs.

Giving back to the local community is a Texas virtue, and one to which we are dedicated. For 54 years the citizens of Waco have proudly supported the Hall of Fame and our partners the Texas Rangers with services and funding. This, in turn, has allowed us to serve more than 4.5 million visitors and reciprocate by becoming a community meeting place and a tourism attractor.

John Knox Memorial Center provides space for more than 150 community events a year—banquets, wedding receptions, quinceñeras, conferences, town hall meetings and many more—as well as educational programs and Texas Ranger training sessions. The Education Center, a classroom and training center, serves the Texas Rangers and nonprofits service providers hosting more than 100 sessions a year.

We wish everyone a wonderful 2018, the 195th year of the Texas Ranger service.

Executive Director's report -

Busy, busy 2017 had many challenges

By Liz Myrick
TRAF Executive Director



With 2017 coming to a close, the foundation office looks back on a very busy year. With the success of the 35th annual reunion, two golf tournaments, five Clay Shoots in September and October, hurricane and emergency relief efforts, grants, and a record-setting number of scholarship awards it's safe to say our cup runneth over.

We are grateful for this time to regroup and gear up for a fabulous 2018!

For our scholarship recipients, we hope you had a great fall semester! To receive the scholarship award for the Spring 2018 semester, we will need your fall 2017 grades and number of hours taken. We will also need your spring 2018 schedule that states the number of hours you're taking.

This information is due to the TRAF office by March 1. Per the standard procedure, reminders will not be mailed, but if you have questions, please don't hesitate to call. You are special to us and we're always happy to hear from you!

Once again the Rangers made every Texan proud. With the attention of the nation on Sutherland Springs, we repeatedly heard other law enforcement, the press and community leaders lauding the Texas Rangers for their tenacity, professionalism and stoicism.

"Courage is fear that's said its prayers." This quotation reverberated in my heart and mind as I watched the events unfold on the news that Sunday about a small town and a Baptist church, so like the one that raised me.

While we were asking ourselves impossible questions, the Texas Rangers heeded the call to danger, left their own families and their own Sunday prayers, to rescue, restore peace and bravely tackle the immense and painstaking business of piecing this

tragedy together.

While some of our questions about the capacity for evil and human nature may never be answered, we know that the mettle and courage of the Texas Rangers does not waver. Neither shall our faith in them nor our support of them and their families.

The holidays are a time of reflection and gratitude, and there's much to consider. With the hurricane devastation and other life changing events for our active and retired Texas Rangers and their families, we've seen an unprecedented need for emergency relief funds.

It's been matched by the overwhelming generosity from Ranger and foundation supporters. On behalf of our board of directors and the Texas Rangers and their families, thank you. We could not be more grateful for the gifts and for the reaffirmation of the goodness of others.

We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season, Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous and safe 2018!

Contributors to *Star Journal*

Capt. Barry Caver
Cheryl Iselt
Byron Johnson
Chief Randy Prince

Liz Myrick, TRAF Executive Director
liz.myrick@thetexasrangers.org
254-752-3745

Terri March
Constance White
Rodney Marsh
Joshua Tanner

Bill Hartman, *Star Journal* Editor
bhartman@hartmannews.com
281-342-8691

Truck Raffle Co. D Clay Shoot



JL CISNEROS, a new TRAF Co. D director, was the lucky winner of the 2017 Ram truck drawing. Cisneros (r) accepts the keys from TRAF Co. D director and executive committee member Rick Hernandez. The lucky ticket was drawn from the hopper by Co. F Ranger Jake Burson. The truck was donated by former director Hayden Elder from his Dodge store in Athens. TRAF directors and benefactors sold nearly \$65,000 worth of tickets.



HEB SPONSORED an all-lady employee team at the McAllen Co. D sporting clays shoot. Two Rangers were their "coaches." The team included (l-r) Erma Espazra, Ranger Bobby Garcia, Yvonne Loflin, Teresa Rodriguez, Ranger Randy Aguirre and Priscilla Hernandez.

Clay Shoot Company D



A SPECIAL PRESENTATION was made during the sponsor's party to honor retired sheriff Billy V. Hopper for his long-time support of the Rangers, especially for the Co. D Classic. Making the presentation to Sheriff Hopper were Major Brian Burzynski, and TRAF directors Alvaro Gonzalez, JL Cisneros, Trey Martinez and Rick Hernandez.



ABOVE: VANESSA BUSTAMANTE is the administrative assistant to Co. D, which has its headquarters in Weslaco. Vanessa got to enjoy the day watching her group of Rangers shoot along with her husband, Rick.

LEFT: RANGER NATHAN Mutz, who is stationed in Laredo, made the Co. D shoot a family affair on Oct. 21. Accompanying the Ranger was his family, wife Shawna, and daughters (l-r) Mikaylee, Mattie and Mella. HEB sponsored a kids' tent filled with activities.

Clay Shoot Company D



TEAM CHAMPIONS of the Co. D shoot were Joe Paredes, Joe Touchet, Ally Bestieros and Joe Cavazos. Directors Trey Martinez (holding coach "Nuggs" Paredes), Rick Hernandez and JL Cisneros presented the winning team buckles.



HIGH OVERALL winner was Joe Paredes (with his coach "Nuggs"). Presenting the winner's buckle was Trey Martinez, Rick Hernandez and JL Cisneros.



TOP LADY SHOOTER at Co. D's October sporting clays shoot was Lydia Touchet, who was presented her winning buckle by TRAF directors Trey Martinez, Rick Hernandez and JL Cisneros.



THE ANNUAL CO. D sponsor party is always a highlight for the South Texas clay shoot. Enjoying the pre-shoot festivities were (l-r) Ranger Eric Lopez, Ranger Lt. Wayne Matthews, Ranger Donato Vela, TRAF chairman Constance White, Ranger Antonio Rocha and Ranger Cody Lankford.

Clay Shoot Company E



ED PROBAND (l-r), Lt. Burleigh Locklar, Mark Harmon, Leland Key, Brian Ray (son of Retired Ranger Kenny Ray) and Ranger Philip made up one of the teams at the Co. E shoot, which was held Sept. 9 in San Angelo.



JOHN SAY of Florida is the brother of Susan Wellborn, whose director husband Jerry Wellborn was chairman of the Co. E shoot in San Angelo in September. Say's friend, Bernie Eastman, was high bidder in the live auction of the engraved Colt .45, which was bought in 2016 by San Angeloan Pierce Holt and donated back for the 2017 auction.

Clay Shoot Company E



CO. E RANGERS turned out en masse for their sporting clays shoot in September. Left to right standing are Lt. Burleigh Locklar, Brian Burney, Randy Lewis, Joel Timms, Major Crayton McGee, James Thomas, Royal McMullin, Joel Callaway, Robert Losoya and Terry Eaton. Standing in the bed of the truck are (l-r) Nick Hanna, Phillip Breeding, Philip Kemp, Jeff Vajdos and Jeff Strain.



THESE THREE ladies enjoyed themselves in the San Angelo clays shoot and also participated in the live auction. They are (left to right) Connie Whitman, Gwen Gerlofs and Carol Ballard.



RANGERS JAMES Thomas and Jeff Vajdos took part in the Co. E shoot in September. Both are stationed in El Paso.

Clay Shoot Company E



STEFAN WILSON had the high bid in the Co. E silent auction for the 20 mm bottle breacher and beverage basket.



TRAF VICE-Chairman Dave Wilson, (l) welcomes new benefactor JL Hibdon into the organization's membership. Hibdon joined during the Co. E shooting clays tournament in September.



4 shoots Earnings \$206,000

Four Texas Ranger Association Foundation sporting clay shoots have earned the foundation nearly \$206,000, with two more shoots on the calendar.

The breakdown for each of the reporting shoots are:

Co. C, \$22,180

Co. B, \$47,677

Co. E, \$74,176

Co. D, \$61,829

Co. A's shoot was re-scheduled because of Hurricane Harvey, and will now be held March 2. The TRAF of-

fice is revising the invitation to go out in January, and the office and Co. A directors will be contacting those who registered for the original shoot.

Co. F re-scheduled its shoot and it will be held either in late spring or early summer. As soon as a date is selected, the board will be notified.

Additionally, other 2018 shoots are on the calendars and members are asked to mark the following dates:

Co. E — Oct. 6, San Angelo Claybird Association.

Co. B — Sept. 15, Elm Fork Shooting Sports in Dallas.