

BULLET POINTS

Fall 2023

Former Texas Rangers Association



Welcome

Edited by FTRA historian and longtime Texas writer Mike Cox, *Bullet Points* is designed for “speed loading.” In short bullet points, we intend to keep you up to date on FTRA activities and efforts of the FTRA Foundation to raise sufficient funds to complete the Texas Ranger Heritage Center in Fredericksburg.



Silver Stars & Six Guns

The 22nd annual FTRF gala, *Silver Stars & Six Guns*, has been set for Nov. 3-4 at the Inn of the Hills in Kerrville, where more than two decades ago it began. Tickets to the Friday night VIP event are \$50; tickets for the Saturday gala are \$200. To register, call 830-990-1192. In addition to good fellowship and good food, the gala will include silent and live auctions plus entertainment.

**HERITAGE
CENTER**

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Give me a few Texas Rangers and I will get it done. – Sam Houston

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125th anniversary book

Acclaim Press will be publishing a coffee table book commemorating the 125 anniversary of the FTRA. Members are urged to write their Ranger-related story (up to 1,000 words) and submit a photograph for inclusion in the book. The new deadline is November 30. Copies can be ordered for \$59.95. Please see the four-page flier previously mailed to all members or go to their website at www.acclaimpress.com. Send you biographic material to FTRAbok@acclaimpress.com

Message from FTRA



President Matthew Lindemann

I'd like to introduce myself to you as your new association President. I was raised in Bartlett, which is located on the Bell – Williamson County line in Central Texas.

I began my law-enforcement career in 1985 serving as a Williamson County Deputy Sheriff. Nineteen-ninety was a busy year as I married M'Lissa and was hired by the Texas DPS. My first assignment as a State Trooper was in Williamson County. During my nearly seven years in the Highway Patrol, I served on the department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team and the Honor Guard.

In 1997, I was promoted to Texas Ranger and assigned to Greenville. In 1998, I transferred to Austin and later Georgetown where I also served as

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a Co. "F" primary firearms instructor and digital police photography instructor for the division. This allowed me to meet every new Ranger as they were promoted into the division over an eight-year period. Presidential campaigns for Governors Bush and Perry took me across the country performing dignitary protective duties.

Three years on the Texas Ranger Reconnaissance Team allowed me the opportunity to work alongside Rangers from across the state as well as U.S. Border Patrolmen, Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens and Texas military forces personnel on the border from the Lower Rio Grande Valley to El Paso.

In 2014 after seventeen years in the division, I was promoted to Texas Ranger Lieutenant, Co. "F" Austin where I served until retiring in 2018. M'Lissa and I raised two wonderful children in Georgetown. Clark, an Eagle Scout, graduated from Texas A&M in 2016, and Claire, a former Miss Georgetown and Texas A&M graduate, graduated in 2020.

After retiring from DPS, I had the pleasure of working for Williamson Co. DA Shawn Dick as an investigator. In October of 2021, the Williamson County Commissioner's Court unanimously appointed me to Constable of Precinct 3. In May 2023, I was elected President of the Former Texas Ranger Association, which I

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consider to be one of the highlights of my law-enforcement career. I am thankful for the many wonderful opportunities that have come my way, most importantly my family that has stood by me for more than thirty-eight years.

I hope all of you have submitted your bio's and photographs to Acclaim Press, the publishers who are composing the 125th Anniversary book for FTRA. Each of you contributed to the history of the Texas Rangers and your information needs to be included in the book. Acclaim Press was entrusted to tell our history after providing an example of their work about the U.S. Marshal's Office to Joe Davis for his review. This will be a coffee table-type book, of good quality and something for our families to be proud to have. Former DPS PIO Mike Cox, who has authored several books about the Rangers, will be working with FTRA on the book.

This year's Silver Stars & Six Guns Gala will be held November will be a wonderful chance to visit old friends and make new ones and raise money for a good cause. I look forward to seeing you at the Gala and I am honored to serve as President of the FTRA.



Message from FTRF President Joe Davis

I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on what has been happening within the FTRF this year. First and foremost, this year, 2023, we have been celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Texas Rangers.

We've had several events commemorating the bicentennial. It began in Gonzales, where we remembered the 32 Gonzales Rangers who gave their lives at the siege of the Alamo. They are known today as the "Immortal 32." Next, we were in Center Point honoring the Rangers who are buried there, more than any other cemetery including the State Cemetery in Austin. Recently we had our yearly event "Celebrate Texas!," centered on the 200th Anniversary.

Our last event for the bicentennial year will be our annual Silver Stars & Six Guns Gala at Inn of the Hills in Kerrville. It will be a two-day celebration beginning Friday, Nov. 3, with our VIP reception that includes a buffet and entertainment. Saturday, Nov. 4, will be our big night with a cocktail hour, dinner, live and silent auctions and special entertainment. This year's entertainment will be the Jamm Band with members of George Strait's Ace in the Hole featuring special guest Bubba Strait. You won't want to miss this one, so get your tickets early as seating is limited and book your rooms (at our special rate).

In August 2020, we announced we were going to begin construction of Phase II of the Texas Ranger Heritage Center. Everything was in place, including the financing and the construction company. It was to be completed and opened for the 200th Anniversary. Things beyond our control then happened that got it delayed. Since then, inflation has risen and the cost of construction has nearly doubled. Regardless, we are moving forward with our original capital campaign and hope to have some good news by the end of the year. I will keep you posted.

I look forward to seeing you at our Gala, and if you are in the Fredericksburg area, be sure to stop by our office. Again, thank you for your continued support and confidence. To tinker with an old Ranger saying, "We'll keep on a'comin'!"

Until next time,

Joe B. Davis, President, Texas Ranger, Ret.



Memorial cross ceremonies

Sept. 16, 2023: Grave of Ranger John Robert Baylor
(1822-1894), 11:30 a.m., Montell, Uvalde County.
(Honored Ranger of Sue Dulling)

Dec. 9, 2023: Four former Ranger graves, Floresville,
Wilson County. (Details to come)



In memoriam

Willis Marburger, Jr. Aug. 1, 2023 Advisory Director

Howard Dunham July 5, 2023 Sgt. Co. B, retired

William "D" Vickers June 1, 2023 Capt., Co. B, retired

Marlene King May 25, 2023 Secretary, Co. A, retired

Larry Mahan May 7, 2023 Former Advisory Director

James Scroggins March 10, 2023 Co. F, Supervisor,
Unsolved Crimes Program

B.J. "Red" McCombs Feb. 12, 2023 Advisory Director