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# FORMER TEXAS RANGERS FOUNDATION

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## Texas Rangers Heritage Center to be Located at Fredericksburg's Historic Fort Martin Scott

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS – The City of Fredericksburg has officially announced the offer of an economic development incentive to the Former Texas Rangers Foundation (FTRF) to provide 7.1 acres fronting US Highway 290 East adjacent to the historic Fort Martin Scott to build the Texas Rangers Heritage Center (TRHC).

The TRHC will be an interactive learning venue that provides an immersive, educational experience where visitors will learn about the history, the philosophy and the life experiences of one of Texas oldest institutions – the Texas Rangers. Both the City and the FTRF believe that the center will not only celebrate the heritage of Fredericksburg and Fort Martin Scott, but it will encourage regional heritage tourism and have a significant economic impact on Fredericksburg businesses.

"The addition of the Texas Rangers Heritage Center fits entirely with Fredericksburg 's commitment to the commemoration of our collective past," said Fredericksburg Mayor Jeryl Hoover. "Along with the National Museum of the Pacific War and our own Gillespie County Pioneer Museum, we now can boast of the facility honoring the heroes of the Lone Star State. This gives us a triumvirate of museums representing national, state, and local heroes."

The proposed partnership between the City and the FTRF includes a 99-year lease on the property. Additionally, the City has issued a letter of intent offering to extend water, sewer and electric service to the site at their expense along with any necessary archeological studies. The project is in the initial stages of development. An economic development program to facilitate the project is to be developed, and the FTRF is developing feasibility studies regarding the location and fundraising.

The capital investment of building the TRHC in the community will enhance the value of the existing Fort Martin Scott historic site and provide area visitors with more destination opportunities. "Partnering with the City of Fredericksburg to enhance this historic site with the TRHC is an incredible opportunity," said Joe Davis, president of the Former Texas Rangers Foundation. "We appreciate the City's enthusiasm in helping us bring a first class educational center to Fredericksburg. Because of their support, the TRHC will soon become a reality for all Texans – and visitors to our state – to enjoy."

The TRHC will be a 41,350-square foot educational center featuring five galleries showcasing the history of the Texas Rangers through interactive exhibits. Guests will walk in the historic footsteps of the Texas Rangers as before their very eyes, the saga of the Rangers will come to life beginning in 1823 with Stephen F. Austin swearing in the first Texas Rangers and spanning the years to modern day Rangers. The exhibits will highlight such historical events as the mustering of the Gonzales Rangers, the Battle of Waller Creek, the captures of notorious outlaws Sam Bass, John Wesley Hardin and Bonnie and Clyde, and the 1974 Huntsville prison siege.

"It gives us a huge boost of pride to be selected for this facility representing the heroism and integrity of the renowned Texas Rangers," said Mayor Hoover. "We couldn't be more thrilled to be linked so closely to their history and the values they represent today."

While learning about Texas Ranger history, youth will also learn about the five character traits of The Junior Texas Ranger Program: courage, determination, dedication, integrity and respect. These traits will be showcased by Texas Rangers, both past and present, and the program will motivate school-age children to emulate these character traits historically associated with Texas Rangers. By participating in The Junior Texas Ranger Program, children can become Junior Texas Rangers and receive a badge and a certificate signed by a Texas Ranger by visiting the TRHC or through the FTRF's Distance Learning Program.

“The City of Fredericksburg understands and appreciates the value of keeping the legacy of the Texas Rangers alive to share with future generations,” said Davis. “By partnering with us to make the TRHC a reality, the City is not only celebrating our past, they are planning for their future by investing in the community in a project that will bring not only visitors, but jobs and volunteer opportunities to Fredericksburg. We appreciate their foresight and planning and are proud to be a part of Fredericksburg’s future.”

Plans for the TRHC also include a Ranger Ring of Honor, a memorial to Rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, and an auditorium that will be available for community use. The TRHC will also house historical artifacts and documents and will serve as the headquarters for the Former Texas Rangers Foundation and Association.

Established in 1971, the Former Texas Rangers Foundation is a membership based 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Their mission is to preserve and perpetuate the true history of the Texas Rangers. For more information about the FTRF or to become a member of the organization, visit [www.FormerTexasRangers.org](http://www.FormerTexasRangers.org) or call 1.888.766.4055.

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The Former Texas Rangers Foundation (FTRF) presented the City of Fredericksburg with a Texas Ranger flag at Fort Martin Scott to represent the future new home of the Texas Rangers Heritage Center. Pictured left to right: John Meadows, FTRF Chairman of the Board; Sr. Capt. H. R. Block, Texas Ranger retired; FTRF President Joe B. Davis, Texas Ranger retired; Tom Daniels, FTRF Director; Ernie Loeffler, Director of the Fredericksburg Convention & Visitors Bureau; Gary Neffendorf, Fredericksburg City Manager; Fredericksburg Mayor Jeryl Hoover; Frances Rushing, Chamber of Commerce President; Lee Spencer White, FTRF Secretary; and Tim Lehmberg, Executive Director of Gillespie County Economic Development Commission.