Military Welcomed With Free Admission

For the second year, the San Jacinto Museum of History is participating in Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to the nation’s active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2014. The program provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation’s cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after a military move or while traveling. If you know someone who is in the military, invite their family to visit San Jacinto this summer.

View From the Top to Go Online

Contractors and Texas Parks and Wildlife staff are busy running cable and prepping the electrical system for the launch of the San Jacinto Star EarthCam, which is set to open live in time to capture Houston’s fireworks on July 4. EarthCam, a web camera provider network that has installations around the world including such high profile sites as New York’s Times Square and Ground Zero, Lady Liberty’s torch, Mount Rushmore, the Washington Monument, the Panama Canal, London’s Abbey Road crossing, and the sniper’s perch in Dallas’ Dealey Plaza, will offer live round the clock images from under the San Jacinto star, facing the City of Houston. The staff of the museum is excited to offer this truly unique window on the fourth largest city in the United States that will capture the park, the Ship Channel, the Houston skyline, and the surrounding region. The feed will be available on the Museum website and on the EarthCam website. “We would like to thank the Union Pacific Railroad, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Enstep Technology Solutions and BrandExtract for assisting our efforts to bring this new view on our city to the public”, says Museum president Larry Spasic.

New Exhibit Travels Down I-10

As you motor along I-10 east of Houston during the hot summer months, take a break at the San Jacinto-themed rest stops that are located along the highway on both the East and Westbound sides near Winnie. With some of the nicest restroom facilities, beautiful landscaped nature trails, a polite cleaning staff that is on site most hours of the day, and history-themed exhibits throughout, it is an oasis for travelers who are looking for a break from the road. The site also has exhibit cases that the museum staff updates periodically throughout the year. Currently, a selection of photos and prints from our collections that feature images of historic homes and towns in East Texas are on display. Homes of such notables as Texas Governor Ross Sterling, Peter Ellis Bean, Guy M. Bryan, and Andrew Jackson Houston are displayed alongside early views of the towns of Austin and Matagorda, as well as images of those homes leveled or about to be leveled in...
Today's Heroes of San Jacinto
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brooks Hixon

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Letter from the President

Dear Supporter,

It is always a pleasure to share the successful results of long-standing as well as newly minted museum projects with the people whose support makes those projects possible, and I will use this space to highlight a few of the exciting things that have been taking place at San Jacinto recently.

I continue to receive calls from those who attended our annual San Jacinto Day Dinner last April who were thrilled to meet and honor Helen Kleberg Groves whose life on the storied King Ranch is an intriguing part of Texas’ history. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison’s reading of excerpts from her newest book, Unflinching Courage: Pioneering Women Who Shaped Texas was especially well received. Dinner chairs Sarah and Steve Pitt, along with the members of the organizing committee, deserve our appreciation for their efforts, and I congratulate them for what was a very successful and enjoyable event.

We are saddened that this past April was the last time that Sam Houston IV will read his great-grandfather's Report from the Battlefield at the annual official commemoration of the Battle of San Jacinto as he steps down from this commitment; and we thank him for his participation in this solemn event.

Our lobby exhibit, The Carabajal Collection: A Glimpse of Goliad continues its successful run as one of our most popular attractions through the middle of the month; if you have not seen this intriguing exhibit you have only a short time left to do so. We will then be taking a closer look at the 75-year history of the museum, not just through the exhibit in the Monument lobby, but also in a second online exhibit.

Thanks to the strong financial support of the members of the San Jacinto Museum, we have been able to maintain a reduced ticket fee for school groups to tour the special exhibit, take the elevator to the Observation Floor, and learn about the Battle of San Jacinto by visiting the theatre; during the 2014 spring semester over 20,000 school-age children have made a visit. And our participation in the Blue Star Museum Program has received a very positive public response from veterans groups and active duty military support organizations.

As members of this museum you are Texas history ambassadors; please continue to refer any Texan or for that matter, non-Texan to our exciting website where they can learn about the significance of San Jacinto. There they can click on the membership button to become a part of history. Thank you BrandExtract for your fantastic web site design and for the efforts of your award winning team of design craftsmanship.

In addition to the new webcam mentioned elsewhere, Enstep, our internet provider, has set-up a small amount of bandwidth for a virtual internet “sandbox” on the observation floor, enough for guests to log on to Facebook or Twitter to send pictures from underneath that glorious 34’ high, 220 ton star of Texas. As a reminder, your membership includes free rides, all year long, to the top of the Monument for the best view in Texas.

As always, thank you for making all of this possible.

Larry Spasic,
President, San Jacinto Museum of History

San Jacinto Corporate Society
Mr. Bob Rose - Noltex, LLC
2014 - Another Successful Festival

Thank you to the sponsors and volunteers for a successful San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment on April 26. Presenting Sponsor: H-E-B Pasadena Strawberry Festival Dow Chemical Company San Jacinto Volunteers Texas Parks & Wildlife LyondellBasell San Jacinto College Clean Harbors La Porte EMS KHOU INEOS Total Deer Park ISD Kirby Corp. Apache Corp. Hampton Inn & Suites Deer Park CenterPoint Energy

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level an or about to be leveled in Galveston due to the 1900 hurricane. The architecture of the buildings seen in this exhibit frequently reflects the tastes of the different nationalities of their owners and illustrates how the advent of new technologies also changed how homes were constructed. Enjoy your summer trips and take the time to relax and have a mini-museum visit at some rest stops that truly live up to their name.
Fragile Currency Receives Treatment

The museum was very happy to receive the recent gift of Republic of Texas and Confederate currency from Randy Bennett of Pasadena, Texas, even when the gift presented us with some all too familiar problems. The items in the gift, which included Texas currency in the denominations of $1, $2, $3, $5, $10, $20, $50 and a $100 government bond along with Confederate bills bearing values of $.50, $2, $5, $10, $20, $50, $100, were in overall excellent condition, but they had at some point been affixed to velvet-covered mounting boards with the bane of many conservators: double-sided tape. The combination of the very sticky tape with adhesives that damage paper over time and the delicate tissue-like paper made saving these specimens extremely difficult.

Recognizing that we would need to remove the currency from the boards to preserve it, we contacted Carrabba Conservation, Inc. in Austin, a paper conservation lab that has worked miracles on maps and other paper items from our collections in the past. The task proved time consuming and involved some experimental treatments to remove the adhesives. Not only did the conservation team have to remove the currency from the boards, they had to remove all traces of the adhesive from the paper so that it would not continue to cause damage to the paper in the future. Some of the results of this process will be seen in a lobby exhibit that will open later this summer.

Thanks are due to Cheryl Carrabba and her staff for going above and beyond into the realm of noxious solvents to work on this project, and the donor, Mr. Bennett, who also contributed towards the conservation of his gift. The museum staff would also like to remind members, if you want your precious items to last for future generation to appreciate, please put the tape back in the drawer!

Thank You to Recent Donors

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