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June 24, 2020

The Honorable Rick Lewis
Montague County Judge's Office
PO Box 475
Montague, TX 76251

Dear Judge Lewis,

We are pleased to announce that the Montague County Historical Commission (CHC) has earned a Distinguished Service Award (DSA) for the 2019 year of service. While all CHC efforts are valued, DSAs acknowledge above average CHC performance based on a statewide analysis of CHC annual report documentation. Our agency received 185 CHC reports for 2019 and approved 79 awards.

To honor appointees' contributions, **we ask that you acknowledge the award publicly** as soon as possible. Typically, we recommend presenting the enclosed DSA certificate to CHC appointees during a formal meeting of the commissioners court. However, in this time of social distancing, an in-person ceremony may not be feasible. For this reason, we have enclosed a list of other ways to recognize your CHC's outstanding service to the county.

Enclosed is a press release so that your office can promote the DSA award and the CHC's accomplishments. An electronic copy of this press release is posted here: thc.texas.gov/information-2019-dsa-winning-chcs. If you have not already, please ask your appointees share some of their projects with your office and include this information with the press release when distributing to media outlets. Promoting the CHC's award locally demonstrates your pride in the appointees' hard work.

There is no better time than now to draw attention to the positive aspects of county government and the unique aspects of your county's history. The stories that appointees share and the programs that they offer increase civic pride and will serve to increase visitation to your county in the future.

THC Commissioners and staff congratulate you and your CHC on this well-deserved honor. Please convey our heartfelt thanks to each appointee. Thank you for supporting preservation in your county!

Sincerely,

Amy Hammons, CHC Outreach Coordinator

cc: Montague CHC Chair



2019 CHC Annual Report Summary

County Historical Commission (CHC) Performance Highlights

The Texas Historical Commission received reports from 185 County Historical Commissions (CHC) for the 2019 year of service. Below are primary reporting statistics that demonstrate the breadth and value of CHC services.

- **444,808 CHC volunteer hours represents work of 213 employees and has a monetary value of \$11,311,467.***
- **Return on investment**—for every \$1 counties invested in CHCs, \$9.87 worth of service was returned by CHCs.
- CHCs supplemented county money with \$347,636 from grants, donations, and fundraisers.

Financial data from 2019 CHC annual reports	Average allocation	Reporting Totals
Annual county allocation—122 CHCs received 2019 allocation:	\$6,353	\$775,033
County money allotted for museums—21 CHCs provided amounts:	\$13,151	\$276,171
Any other money issued by the county:		\$94,493
Total county monies invested:		\$1,145,697

General information about Texas CHCs based on 2019 CHC reports

- Average size of reporting CHCs is 18 appointees and usually hold six meetings per year.
- CHCs provide an average of 2,404 volunteer hours per year; reports show zero hours upwards to 20,000 hours.
- CHCs participate in a wide range of activities, some of which are noted below.

Select preservation activity based on 185 CHC reports for 2019 year of service	# of participating CHCs
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of subject markers in your county	114
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of cemeteries in your county	115
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of designated properties (RTHL, NR)	61
Used the THC website information to educate appointees	99
Made concerted efforts to improve online presence of CHC and/or county	91
Provided educational events/presentations to adult audiences outside your CHC	93
Provided educational events/presentations to youth/schools	76
CHC appointees volunteered at a historic site that is open to the public at large	88
Provided tours of historic buildings and/or sites within the county	66

* Current estimated volunteer hourly rate is \$25.43 as per independentsector.org.

Reporting data as of 6/1/20

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PRESENTS THIS

2019

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

TO

MONTAGUE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

IN RECOGNITION OF ITS ACTIVE
AND WELL-BALANCED PRESERVATION PROGRAM


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 10, 2020

DATE



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



2019 Distinguished Service Awards

Recognition of County Historical Commission Performance

The following County Historical Commissions garnered a Distinguished Service Award for the 2019 year of service. Each year, the Texas Historical Commission uses the DSA to recognize CHCs that demonstrate exceptional service to preserve Texas' rich and unique heritage. Heartfelt congratulations to these appointees for going above and beyond.

Aransas	Deaf Smith	Jeff Davis	Matagorda	Sabine
Atascosa	DeWitt	Jefferson	Medina	San Saba
Austin	Dickens	Jim Hogg	Menard	Scurry
Bandera	El Paso	Kaufman	Milam	Tarrant
Bell	Erath	Kendall	Mills	Taylor
Brazos	Fannin	Kerr	Montague	Tom Green
Brown	Fayette	Kimble	Montgomery	Travis
Burnet	Fort Bend	Lamar	Nacogdoches	Tyler
Cameron	Franklin	Lampasas	Navarro	Van Zandt
Carson	Garza	Lavaca	Newton	Victoria
Cass	Harris	Liberty	Nueces	Walker
Chambers	Harrison	Limestone	Palo Pinto	Waller
Cherokee	Hays	Live Oak	Pecos	Wheeler
Collin	Henderson	Lubbock	Polk	Wilson
Comal	Houston	Marion	Randall	Wise
	Jasper	Mason	Rusk	Wood

An award packet will be mailed to the county judge of each of these County Historical Commissions (CHC). Presenting the award locally provides the opportunity for county officials and the public to honor the CHC and provide recognition to all appointees.

CHC Outreach staff assembled a **photo gallery that highlights the efforts** of each award-winning commission here: thc.texas.gov/distinguished-service-awards-2019. More information on how the award can be presented publicly here: thc.texas.gov/information-2019-dsa-winning-chcs.