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July 18, 2022

The Honorable Kevin Benton
Montague County Judge's Office
P.O. Box 475
Montague, TX 76251

Dear Judge Benton,

We are pleased to announce that the Montague County Historical Commission (CHC) has earned a Distinguished Service Award (DSA) for the 2021 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 193 CHC reports for 2021 and approved 82 awards, quite an accomplishment given that the pandemic limited public programming for all CHCs.

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. If an in-person ceremony is not feasible, please consider implementing other ideas listed on the enclosed flyer 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 <https://www.thc.texas.gov/information-2021-dsa-winning-chcs>. We suggest gathering specifics related to the CHC's efforts and including that information in the press release prior to distributing a copy to media outlets. Promoting the CHC's award locally demonstrates your pride in the appointees' hard work and explains their civic contribution. This publicity will draw attention to the positive aspects of county government.

THC Commissioners and staff congratulate you and your CHC on this well-deserved honor. Thank you for supporting appointees and their efforts to preserve county history!

Sincerely,

Emiliano Calderon, CHC Outreach Coordinator

cc: Montague CHC Chair

GREG ABBOTT, GOVERNOR | JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIR | MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 Distinguished Service Awards
Recognition of County Historical Commission Performance

Each year, the Texas Historical Commission administers the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) process to recognize County Historical Commissions (CHC) that demonstrate exceptional service to preserve Texas' rich and unique heritage. **The following CHCs garnered a DSA for the 2021 year of service.**

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

CONGRATULATIONS to the appointees and volunteers who contributed time and effort during this very challenging year! An award packet will be mailed to the county judge of each of the CHCs listed above. A copy of the contents of this packet—including the DSA certificate and suggestions for promoting this award—are provided here: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/information-2021-dsa-winning-chcs>. We have asked that the DSA award be presented locally to honor the CHC's accomplishments and provide public recognition to all appointees.

GREG ABBOTT, GOVERNOR | JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIR | MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2021 CHC Annual Report Summary

County Historical Commission (CHC) Performance Highlights

The Texas Historical Commission received reports from 193 County Historical Commissions (CHC) for the 2021 year of service. Below are primary reporting statistics that demonstrate the breadth and value of CHC services.

- **284,046 CHC volunteer hours** represents work of 136 employees and has a monetary value of \$8,507,177.*
- **Return on investment**—for every \$1 counties invested in CHCs, \$8.19 worth of service was returned by CHCs.
- CHCs supplemented county money with \$353,167 from grants, donations, and fundraisers.

Financial data from 2021 CHC annual reports	Average allocation	Reporting Totals
Annual county allocation—117 CHCs received 2021 allocation:	\$6,436	\$753,104
County money allotted for museums—16 CHCs provided amounts:	\$8,779	\$140,463
Any other money issued by the county:		\$144,159
Total county monies invested:		\$1,037,726

General information about Texas CHCs based on 2021 CHC reports

- Average size of reporting CHCs is 16 appointees and usually hold five meetings per year.
- CHCs provide an average of 1,472 volunteer hours per year: reports show zero hours upwards to 10,000 hours.
- CHCs participate in a wide range of activities, some of which are noted below.

Select preservation activity based on 193 CHC reports for 2021 year of service	# of participating CHCs
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of subject markers in your county	111
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of cemeteries in your county	105
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of designated properties (RTHL, NR)	55
Promoted historic and cultural sites to sustain heritage tourism initiatives	82
Made concerted efforts to improve online presence of CHC and/or county	83
Provided educational events/presentations to audiences outside your CHC	99
Provided educational events/presentations to youth/schools	72
CHC appointees volunteered at a historic site that is open to the public at large	82
Provided tours of historic buildings and/or sites within the county	67

* Current estimated volunteer hourly rate is \$29.95 as per independentsector.org.

Reporting data as of 6/17/22

GREG ABBOTT, GOVERNOR | JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIR | MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PRESENTS THIS

2021

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

TO

MONTAGUE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

IN RECOGNITION OF ITS ACTIVE
AND WELL-BALANCED PRESERVATION PROGRAM


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 18, 2022

DATE



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES