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June 01, 2023

The Honorable Kevin Benton
Montague County Judge's Office
PO Box 475
Montague, TX 76251

Dear Judge Benton,

We are pleased to announce the Montague County Historical Commission (CHC) has earned a Distinguished Service Award (DSA) for the 2022 year of service. While all CHC efforts are valued, DSAs acknowledge above average CHC performance based on a statewide analysis of CHC annual reports. For 2022, our agency received 197 CHC reports and approved 83 awards.

To honor appointee contributions, we ask that you acknowledge the award publicly as soon as possible. We recommend presenting the enclosed DSA certificate to your CHC during a formal meeting of the commissioners court. If an in-person ceremony is not feasible, please consider other ideas listed on the enclosed flyer to recognize your CHC's outstanding service to the county.

Enclosed is a press release your office can use to promote the DSA and your CHC's accomplishments. An electronic copy of this press release is provided at: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/information-2022-dsa-winning-chcs>. We suggest gathering specifics related to your CHC's efforts and including that information in the press release prior to distributing a copy to media outlets. Promoting your CHC's award locally demonstrates your pride in their hard work and explains their civic contribution. This publicity will also draw attention to the positive impacts of county government.

THC Commissioners and staff congratulate you and your CHC on this well-deserved honor. Thank you for supporting your appointees and their efforts to preserve Texas' historic resources.

Sincerely,

Nano Calderon, CHC Outreach Coordinator

cc: Montague CHC Chair



2022 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS
 Recognition of County Historical Commission Performance

Each year, the Texas Historical Commission administers Distinguished Service Awards (DSAs) to recognize County Historical Commissions (CHCs) that demonstrate exceptional service to preserve Texas' diverse history. **The following CHCs garnered a DSA for the 2022 year of service.**

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

CONGRATULATIONS to all appointees for their contributions throughout the past year! An award packet will be mailed to the county judge of each of the CHCs listed above. A copy of the packet, including the DSA certificate and suggestions for promoting the award, is provided at the following: <https://www.thc.texas.gov/information-2022-dsa-winning-chcs>. We have asked county judges to present the award locally to acknowledge CHC accomplishments and provide public recognition to all appointees.

The Texas Historical Commission received reports from 197 County Historical Commissions (CHCs) for the 2022 year of service. Below are primary reporting statistics that demonstrate the breadth and value of CHC services.

- **294,634 volunteer hours represent the work of 166 employees and have a monetary value of \$9,369,361.***
- **Return on investment**—for every \$1 counties invested in CHCs, \$8.28 worth of service was returned by CHCs.
- CHCs supplemented county money with \$498,346 from grants, donations, and fundraisers.

Financial data from 2022 CHC annual reports	Average Allocation	Reporting Totals
Annual county allocation—116 CHCs received 2022 allocation	\$6,688	\$775,825
County money allotted for museums—19 CHCs provided amounts	\$16,317	\$310,025
Any other money issued by the county		\$105,835
Total county monies invested:		\$1,191,685

General information about CHCs based on 2022 CHC reports:

- The average size of reporting CHCs is 16 appointees with an average of 5 meetings per year.
- CHCs provide an average of 1,618 volunteer hours per year.
- CHCs participate in a wide range of preservation activities, some of which are noted below.

Select preservation activity based on 197 CHC reports for 2022 year of service	# of Participating CHCs
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of subject markers	117
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of cemeteries	105
Visit sites to monitor the physical condition of designated properties (RTHL, NR, SAL)	75
Promoted historic and cultural sites to sustain heritage tourism initiatives	70
Coordinated or participated in a regional preservation or tourism event	53
Provided educational events/presentations to the public and youth	100
Cleaned or repaired subject markers	68
Operated/maintained an archive or research library for public use	48
Provided tours of historic buildings and/or sites within the county	69

* Current estimated volunteer hourly rate is \$31.80 as per independentsector.org.

Reporting data as of 5/12/23

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PRESENTS THIS

2022

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

TO

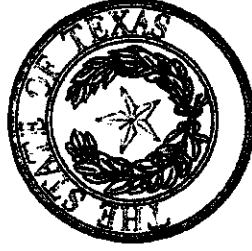
MONTAGUE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

IN RECOGNITION OF ITS ACTIVE
AND WELL-BALANCED PRESERVATION PROGRAM

mark woff
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 01, 2023

DATE



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