

THE 43

FOR VOLUNTEERS, BY VOLUNTEERS



July — September, 2014

Semper Stantes

Volume 43.5



Travels with the Lone Star Presidents Institute off to a great start with

Docents Amy Stone, Sally Adamson , Linda Massey, Kyle Norcross and Kenneth Austin.

Spotlight...

Commander Tex Sandlin, US Navy (Retired)

Commander Sandlin volunteers as an addiction counselor and educational specialist since retiring from professional life. He owned a Leadership and Business Development consulting



firm from 2005-2010, serving several Fortune 50 clients. From 2001-2005 he served as COO and Executive VP of Sales & Marketing for an international pharmaceutical company. During these 9 years he also had a successful career as a motivational speaker and corporate trainer. He served in the US Navy from 1978-1998 flying the F-14 Tomcat , including 379 carrier arrested landings, over 2000 flight hours in tactical jets and

participation in Desert Storm. He has flown 32 combat missions and has been decorated for Valor. He was one of the 8 pilots selected to fly the aerial sequences for the feature film *Top Gun*. He holds Bachelor's degrees in Management and Psychology from Rice University as well as Master's degrees in Administration and Education.

Spotlight... Rod Franz

BACKGROUND: Armed with a new degree in sociology and every intention of becoming a social worker, I found poor job prospects in that field in the inflationary period of the early 1970's.....so I took a temporary job stocking shelves at a soon-to-open department store, amazingly found a great career there, and stayed for 37 years.

HISTORICAL FIGURE: My great-great-grandfather Jacob Franz, who at age 16 jumped on a ship in Germany headed for America, eventually building a brick factory in Pittsburgh. As the saying goes, the rest is history...

LIVING PERSON: There are many, seems to update each morning as I read the newspaper. This week, it's Reng Ajak Greu (a.k.a. John), a garden supervisor at The Dallas Arboretum who has just written a book, *Un-speakable: My Journey as a Lost Boy of the Sudan*. Settled in Dallas by refugee organizations a decade ago, he's now graduated from Richland College and recently returned to Africa to meet his family. I've never seen a brighter or more genuine smile than his.

ACHIEVEMENT: I'd like to think that instead of a single "greatest" one, there have been many, many small ones.

MOTTO: I think the one we see projected on the floor in Area 1 each shift is a pretty good one to live by; "To those whom much is given, much is required".

DUBYA Stats...by the numbers

On April 20, 2013, *The Dallas Morning News* projected that the George W. Bush Library “may pull in 400,000 visitors in the first year”. The actual number of visitors the first year was 477,479 which surpassed the projected attendance. As we enter the second year of operation, we continue on the road to surpass the average yearly attendance of both Clinton’s (287,060) and Reagan’s (247,435).

	April	May	June
General Admission Tickets Sold	35,696	36,777	35,138
Total Presidential Passports	99	111	116
Tours for students (camps)	64	92	12
Tours for adults	75	80	63
Number of Special Events	20	25	9



Applause, Kudos, Congratulations.....

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Docent Marilou Simon recently went to Rapid City, South Dakota with her husband who had business nearby. Rapid City is known as *The City of Presidents* because of their full-size bronze statues of each of the presidents. Businessman Don Perdue got the idea, back in 1999, when he noticed how tourists would flock to an existing statue of a sitting Abraham Lincoln positioned outside the Hotel Alex Johnson to get their pictures taken. He thought that the tourists who visit Mount Rushmore may also be interested in seeing “the rest of the family.” He gathered support and they enlisted South Dakota artists who would be willing to make a 10 year commitment to the project. Each artist extensively researched the lives of each president, and all agreed that they didn’t want to create static portraits of men in suits standing on the street corners. Each statue was to give some insight into the personality and the presidency of its subject. The final statues were placed in October of 2010. They have a visitor’s center with a free guide (look for one on the volunteer bulletin board). This website has photos of all the statues and a paragraph explaining what the artist had intended: www.visitrapidcity.com/things-to-do/city-presidents

Baseballs....the rest of the story by Gary Summerfelt

In the spring of 2012, I was working as a volunteer with the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, helping the museum staff on a number of projects. One day when I arrived, the museum tech I worked with said, “Hey G-Man, I need to show you something. Come with me.”

We walked across the hall and opened the door to the Processing Room. In the middle of the room there were about 12 to 14 cardboard boxes, stacked on a large table. “What’s all this?” I asked.

“Look at this!” He opened one of the boxes. Inside the boxes were dozens of baseballs, each in a clear plastic cube. On closer inspection the balls were autographed, some with one or two names, others were covered with signatures. “It’s the president’s personal collection. There must be a couple hundred. A bunch of baseball cards, too.”

As it turned out, there were over 330 autographed baseballs in the collection, together with hundreds of baseball cards dating from 1953 through 1966. “What’re we going to do with all this?” I foolishly asked. “Process ‘em, G-Man, just like any other artifact.” And process them we did.

Processing an artifact entails accurately describing it so that it can be retrieved later. The problem was that none of the baseballs, or the cubes that contained them, identified the names of the persons who signed the balls. While some of the signers had beautiful penmanship to go along with their exceptional athletic skills, many did not. Identifying the ballplayer in question quickly evolved into a competitive game and the two of us would compete to see who could recognize the player the fastest. If a dispute arose (and there were more than a few of those), we put the ball aside for further review.

Many times we would look at a ball and have no idea who could have signed it. Sometimes all we could decipher were a few consonants. If we were really lucky we could discern the first letter of the first and/or the last name. Here is where the miracle that is the Internet became invaluable. The Baseball Reference website lists every player who ever appeared in a Major League game. If we knew that the player’s last name began with the letter “B” and the first name began with the letter “R”, I could scan the list of all players whose names matched those criteria. If a name looked promising, I would click on the link to that player to see when he played and who he played for. We would also check the websites of autograph sellers to compare the signature on the ball we had with what was shown on the website. In all, we were able to positively identify all but 8 of the baseballs.

Once we finished with the baseballs, I turned my attention to the cards. In the 1950’s, George Bush would attach a baseball card to a postcard, using glue or tape, and send the card to the

player with the request, “Please sign and return to me. George Bush.” At times this would be a family affair; some of the postcards were addressed by an older man or woman, George or Barbara Bush I would imagine. A few of the postcards had Neil or Marvin Bush’s names on them, as well as George’s. Looking at those cards I would often think how funny life can be – what appeared to be another young boy requesting an autograph from a baseball player sometimes turned out to be a card which contained the signature of a future President of the United States and a future Hall of Famer.

Less than a hundred of these signed cards and postcards survive, many in poor shape. However, it appears the bulk of his card collection (none of which are signed) from around 1959 to 1966 remains intact. Whether this is the result of having a thoughtful and caring mother and wife, who resisted the urge to throw them out, or the fact that both mother and wife knew that there would be some unpleasantness if they ever succumbed to those urges, who can say. In any event, I hope that someday we can all see President Bush’s baseball collection on display in the library. I don’t think that there is anything quite like it.

Camp 43: Leader of One, Leader of Many was a three day leadership seminar for high school juniors and seniors. Out of a hundred applications, twenty were selected from across the metroplex. The camp was under the direction of Heather Nice, the Education Specialist here at George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. **Docents Doug Smith and Kenneth Austin** planned the seminar while other **Docents Tex Sandlin, Lillie Haynes, and Linda Massey** assisted in the activities. The highlight of the three days was the students’ visit with President George W. Bush. He spent 45 minutes with them, taking their well-thought-out questions, giving them insight into being a leader. There were several guest panelists from various businesses who spoke to the students as to how they began their journey in business and leadership. The students participated in leadership building activities and the seminar ended with a major project they had to complete in teams and then present to the instructional staff. Recognition was given to each student at a concluding dinner held at the Meadows Museum on June 19th. This was the first student seminar and, being a success, plans are in the making for next year.

Incredible Encounters.... **43**

I have worked the 9/11 exhibit many times and could write a book on the experiences that I have had in that area of the museum. When the museum was designed, it was the intent to allow the public to feel the full impact of that event and to keep that experience in every American's mind going forward to future decades because that event truly changed our country.

We normally see two basic reactions from visitors. First is utter sadness and despair for those of us who lived it. Secondly, we see fury and resentment with a large dose of revenge still existing for the negative impact that event has had on our nation even today (almost 13 years later). When we work that station, we carry tissues for obvious reasons.

Recognizing that lots of families are there and remembering 9/11 with children under 14 years of age with no realization of these events, I pay a lot of attention to how families are presenting this information to their children. I listen to children's questions and their parent's responses and explanations and hear parents do an outstanding job of informing the children of this part of our history.

It should be said, that when I work that station, I take a passive approach because you never know the personal stories (and believe me, I have heard thousands) that each of our visitors have. Normally, I let the visitors initiate the conversation with me and allow the conversation to grow at its own pace, if at all, beyond responding to specific questions.

As I watch these parents with their children, I am truly heartened by the candid and sensitive exchange they have with their children. You wonder what the next generations will carry forward from this visit. Based on my observations, America still has solid principles and moral standing that is NOT reflected in what we see, read and hear in today's current events.

Docent Howard Haddock

Thursday AM Docents celebrate the 1st year anniversary on Thursday, May 1, 2014.



Applause, Kudos, Congratulations..... **43**

- ◆ to **Docent Paige Reno's** daughter, Rebecca, for receiving the Dr. J.J. Pearce Memorial Scholarship from the Richardson ISD Council of PTAs.
- ◆ to **Docent Bob Callanan** for 50 years of marriage to Mary Joan. They celebrated with their 4 children in Michigan.
- ◆ Special events team leader **Bill Strong**, 2nd baseman for the Sachse Rangers, steps into his swing in a recent game for his *undefeated* senior softball team.



- ◆ **Docents Susan O'Brien and Leslie Camp** with broken arms!!

- ◆ **Docent Colonel Jim Gilliland's** patches



- ◆ **Docent Sally Hayward's** grandbaby and grandson.

- ◆ **Docent Jan McDaniel** who welcomed a new grand baby on the 18th. Victoria Araceli McDaniel 7lb 9oz and 19-3/4" long. Everyone is doing well. Another future **Aggie** in the family (mom and dad are class of 03').



- ◆ **Docent Linda Massey's** "Clinton-Elvis" Tour with 4 retired history teachers who "read everything in sight":



Incredible Encounters.... 43

On Tuesday morning, June 17, we had the honor of meeting **Dr. Delores Carruth**, the doctor who was the neonatologist for the twins, Barbara and Jenna. She had her photo taken by the photo of the twins in Area 1... a photo that she had personally taken. She commented that she had received a thank you note from Laura Bush for the photo. Accompanying her were several other women who were retired doctors, five of whom were the only women at that time in their graduating class from Southwest Medical School.

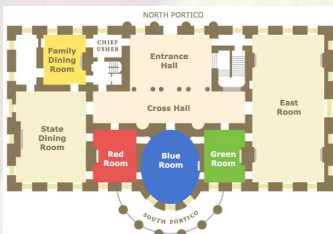


On Tuesday, June 10th, we met **Reverend B.J. Weber** who served as a Chaplain to Engine 16, Ladder 7 of the New York Fire Department after 9/11. Six of their Firehouse and three others who had detailed at 16/7 died on 9/11. Rev. Weber, also, served as the Chaplain to the New York Yankees from 1991-2001. He was in the club house when President Bush threw out the first pitch during the World Series. During Rev. Weber's visit to the Museum, the Orientation Theater was inoperable, but he told of the Secret Service approaching Yankee catcher Jorge Posada to 'warm-up' President Bush for that first pitch and of Derek Jeter's comment. (Of course, from the



video, we know the story; but I was sorry that the video wasn't working during his visit so that he could relive that memorable experience!) Joe Finley, one of the fire fighters from 16/7 was asked to speak at the National Prayer Breakfast the following February. As Rev. Weber left, he said, "We are thankful to Texas" (referring to the birthplace of the President for whom he had so much respect).

On June 24, **Docent Jo Ann Mueller's** assigned area was Living in the White House. Jo Ann noticed a 12-year old young girl studying the floor plan of the White House. Jo Ann began discussing the floor plan and the different levels of the White House and pointing out various rooms on each floor. She was very interested and animated as she asked many questions about the President and his family. She went around the area with her family and then called her uncle over to the floor plan and began telling him what she had learned with a very explicit description of the diagram. She said, "I want to go to the Green Room when I visit the White House". When Jo Ann asked her why and she said, "Because that is my last name"! Encounters such as this make serving in the Bush Museum such a fun and rewarding experience.



Miss Beazley

May 30, 2014

Dear Doris

Thank you for your nice note of sympathy about the loss of our dear dog, Miss Beazley. She was a source of joy during our time in Washington and in Dallas. Beazley was a close companion to her blood relative, Barney, and a guardian to our cats, Bob and Bernadette. We all miss her.

Thanks for thinking of us with your kind condolences. Thank you for a sweet card and thank you for working as a docent!

Laura Bush and Gary Sinise

Gary Sinise is most commonly known for his first big role as Lt. Dan with Tom Hanks in the movie *Forest Gump*, as well as in various television programs. He is an actor many would recognize, but would not immediately recall his name. What most of us do not know is who he really is, his commitment and his passion for all things having to do with serving the military and veterans, and not just the roles he plays.

Docent Stona Spradlin was serving in the Oval Office on Wednesday. After her presentation of the material regarding the Oval Office, Stona approached Gary and told him how much she admired him for his work with the **Wounded Warriors Project**, among his other charitable endeavors. As a result of their conversation and her acknowledged appreciation for his work, he removed a business card from his wallet, one that identified him not as an actor, but one that identified him as founder of the *Gary Sinise Foundation*. Please visit his website to learn more about his amazing work.

Few guests to the museum spend as much time as he did in the library that day; I suspect fewer still have served in the faithful mission of serving our nations' veterans. No wonder Mr. Sinise's interaction with Stona prompted his genuine offer of his business card to her upon her acknowledged appreciation of his support of our troops, and specifically his work with the **Wounded Warriors Project**. As docents, we do not approach in conversation famous people who visit the Library. What a wonderful and natural opportunity that Stona did not approach Mr. Sinise based on his career as an actor, but as a fellow informed citizen of who he is as a person and supporter of the troops, and not as an actor.

As a person, Stona is a wonderful friend; as a patriot, few serve in the capacity of docent as well as she does. How fortunate she was the active docent in the Oval Office that day.

Gary Sinise

"Thank you to everyone @TheBushCenter for hosting me today. It was a wonderful tour with so much to see I will have to come back"



First Volunteer Trip to Austin:



NARA Notes....meet **Randy Grimes**

If you have never met Randy, you certainly know of his work. Randy as the Facilities Operation Specialist for The George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum is responsible for the maintaining the operations at the facility as well as ensuring that the facility maintains its LEED certification. Nothing happens here unless Randy knows about it! He has worked for NARA for nearly 3 years. He thoroughly enjoys learning the history of the artifacts and meeting all kinds of interesting visitors and volunteers. Prior to this position, Randy served in the Air Force as a Civil Engineer. He says it really is true that the Air Force “builds the base around the golf course.” For Randy, it all began in a “suburb north of DFW” which is also known as Moore, Oklahoma. He graduated from high school, joined the Air Force, earned his bachelor’s in Religious Studies from Wayland Baptist University, and a master’s in Operational Management from the University of Arkansas. His first post in the USAF was in San Antonio. From there he was stationed in Wichita Falls, then Altus, OK, then Ramstein, Germany, next to Colorado, back to Wichita Falls, then to Egypt, back to Colorado and finally to Little Rock. After retiring, he joined NARA in DFW and reconnected with his high school sweetheart who manages the famous Fort Worth restaurant *Charleston’s* which is a casual, upbeat place that serves delicious food. Along with Randy and his wife, you may recall another famous person from Moore....none other than Toby Keith. Although 3 years older than Randy, they played Atari games at Toby’s parents’ ranch house in Kitchen Lake. When you have a chance, ask Randy about an incident that happened at 12th Street Park — it involves a “dude with a guitar jumping on the hood.”



Mark Updegrove, the Director of the LBJ Presidential Library and Museum, presents to the teachers for *Travels with the Lone Star Presidents Institute*. It included visits to the LBJ Presidential Library and Museum, the Texas State Capitol, the State Library and Archives Commission, the LBJ Ranch, the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, and the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. Also included were content lectures by professors and activities led by staff members of the libraries.



Brown Bag Luncheon with Archivist Alison Wheelock:



The Journey of the Resolute Desk: From Manhattan to Dallas

By Docent Judith Banes

The last issue of *THE 43* highlighted Mr. & Mrs. James Dicke II, who commissioned the construction and donated the replica of The Resolute Desk to the Museum. Eli Wilner & Company of New York City re-created the desk, and it is their replica that is now found in the Oval Office of the George W. Bush Museum.



Eli Wilner established his Manhattan gallery in 1983 as a resource for period frames. His gallery has established a reputation for expertise in historical framing, meaning that they have the knowledge and experience to recommend frames that would be as close as possible to the frames that would have originally appeared with their clients' works of art.

The Eli Wilner website says "the White House art collection includes 5 Cezannes, 2 Sargents, 1 Monet, 1 O'Keeffe, and 28 Wilners." The first of these twenty-eight frames came when Mr. Wilner discovered that President Clinton was putting "The Avenue in the Rain," a 1917 flag-filled painting by Childe Hassam, in the Oval Office. Wilner couldn't stand to see Clinton's favorite picture surrounded by a "horrible French reproduction frame with a linen liner." Thus, he made a replica of an original Hassam frame and presented it to Clinton. This was a patriotic donation from Mr. Wilner, the son of parents who fled Poland during the Holocaust and who found freedom when he came with them to America at age six.

After making the gift of the frame, Wilner was called upon by the White House to survey the picture frames in its collection. Many of the paintings in the collection had been given to the White House during the Kennedy Administration and had inappropriate French-style reproduction frames. Wilner re-created frames from the correct period for each painting. He traveled to the White House frequently during this time period. It was a great honor for Mr. Wilner to be able to create these frames and it was during these visits to the White House that Wilner became enamored with the desk. Wilner cited, "It is both a marvelous example of the craft of woodworking, and an incredible example of how an object can truly embody history." This fine



19th century English craftsmanship posed a difficult obstacle to the reproduction process. Wilner said, "my team of woodworkers and carvers found that the desk was going to demand every ounce of their expertise and experience from years of restoring and replicating antique frames. These kinds of hand skills are virtually non-existent today. Without our experience, I do not think that such a great replica would have ever been possible."

According to Jim Dicke II, "Eli Wilner called me to say that he had always wanted to build a Resolute Desk using the same fine construction techniques he used for his frames, but he did not want to make it unless he had a customer." In early 2001, Mr. Dicke agreed to commission the desk planning to donate it when the time was appropriate. Wilner said, "My staff was able to do the research and create the initial drawings within a matter of a few very intense weeks." In researching the desk, they used "multiple sources, including books, magazine articles, and photos and measurements we took of the replica desk that is in the JFK Library.

The Journey of the Resolute Desk: From Manhattan to Dallas

Continued from previous page....

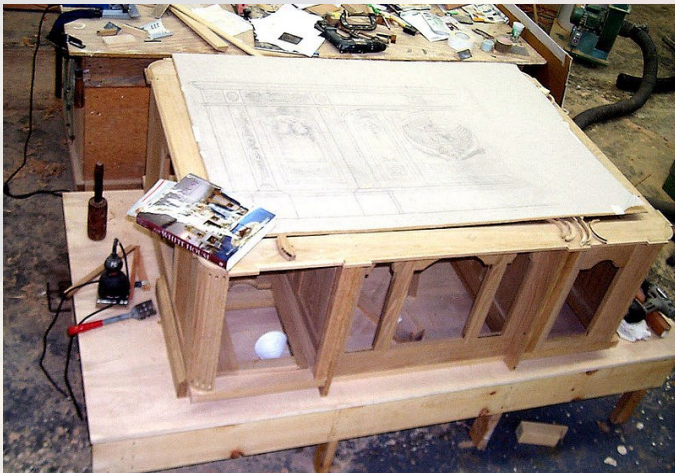
Betty C. Monkman's book, *The White House: Its Historic Furnishing and First Families*, was an especially valuable reference as it contained precise measurements and details of the desk."

The wood used for the desk is plain sawn oak. The desk was constructed over a six-month period with a minimum of two people working on it at all times. First, the structure of the desk was re-created; then came the carving of the intricate details that embellish the desk. As Docents, we have all shared with visitors the two historical additions made to the desk that are evident in this reproduction....the panel requested by FDR (and the famous *Life Magazine* photo of JFK, Jr. peeking out from under the desk in 1962) and the additional height requested by Reagan. The leather for the desk top came from England because in America they only tan half-hides. The reproduction was completed in late 2001.



The reproduction was completed in late 2001.

As a great admirer of President Bush, the time came when Mr. Dicke could donate the desk which has been quite an attraction. The desk was donated to the Bush Foundation and ownership was transferred to NARA with the building. The George W. Bush Center is very indebted to the craftsmanship of Eli Wilner & Company and the donation of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Dicke II. The privilege of getting to sit at this magnificent desk is one of the highlights of a guest's visit to the George W. Bush Museum.



Mary Jane and Richard Cox greet Bret Baier at the Bookstore.

