

2016 Collin County Historical Commission's Awards

Collin McKinney Achievement Award

1. **Awardee: Heritage Farmstead Museum in Plano** has promoted the heritage of Collin County for 40 years. The Farrell Wilson home and the surrounding acreage and outbuildings are a rare testimony to the agricultural heritage of this county. Through innovative projects, museum education, historical tourism, erection of tributes to the past and the preservation of buildings, publications and records of historical significance the Heritage Farmstead Museum interprets farm life on the North Texas Black land Prairie from 1890 to 1925. The Heritage Farmstead works to preserve, teach, and demonstrate the history of Collin County to more than 30,000 visitors annually. Visitors from around the world remember the farmstead as a unique part of their trip to the Dallas/Fort Worth area.
2. Collin County Historical Society and Museum launched a new exhibit on March 2 Texas Independence Day about the life of Texas Patriot and Statesman, Collin McKinney. The exhibit highlights pioneer life in the early days of Texas and Collin County and visitors have a chance to learn of Collin McKinney's life and role as a settler, surveyor, church founder and a member of the committee that drafted the Texas Declaration of Independence. A scale model of the Collin McKinney home is a centerpiece of the exhibit. On April 15-16th, the museum was the host for the Collin McKinney 250th Birthday Celebration with close to 1,300 people in attendance.
3. Farmersville Heritage Museum was completed January, 2016. The nonprofit board of the Museum developed construction plans in conjunction with Farmersville, and successfully raised monies for the project. Presently the museum board is developing exhibitions and educational programming for the completed structure. This museum will preserve and display local history.
4. Heritage Association of Frisco hosts each month on the 3rd Sunday a time of heritage fun and learning at the Frisco Heritage Center. All the historic buildings are opened with costumed docents. People could visit the Calaboose or see blacksmith demonstrations. Quarterly lecture series are offered on a variety of history topics. Museum education is offered to 5,000 2nd grade students in Frisco ISD each year. There are nine publications that the Heritage Association has written and published for the education of the community. Thank you for preserving history.
5. North Texas Civilian Historians is an organization of people who provide living history demonstrations throughout North Texas. The group did workshops on men and women's fashions of the 19th century, and dried vegetables that were eaten during the Civil War at Chestnut Square. In addition the group wrote the script and performed in a murder mystery history of McKinney into a script for a fundraiser at Chestnut Square.

Excellence in Historical Education Award

1. **Awardee: Collin County Historical Society and Museum** has prepared three exhibits to educate citizens about Collin County history in a local, state, regional, and national contest. The Vietnam Syndrome told the story of the Vietnam War from 1954 to 1973 with exhibits, artifacts, oral histories on a DVD. Every visitor, over 800 of all ages got a chance to meet with and learn from a local veteran. Christmas in Collin County offered a chance to connect the present to the past. Children and parents could read letters to Santa from 100 years ago and write their own letters.

Children were fascinated to see old toys and games while adults enjoyed hundreds of vintage holiday cards. The Third Exhibit was Collin McKinney and early Texas. The Collin McKinney Digital Media and Fine Arts Festival brought this third exhibit to classrooms and schools all across Collin County. Through the use of technology available through the iPad, teachers can Face Time with the museum. The docent at the museum is able talk with the students and take them on a tour of the exhibit by using the camera on the I Pad. On Independence Day Channel 11 news was able to showcase this innovative opportunity during their nightly newscast.

2. Gama Beta Chapter of Delta Gamma International donated ten copies of the book, **Collin McKinney**, written by Mary Carole Strother. Jo Ann McKown designed a third grade lesson plan that was also shared with schools in Collin County. Several of the chapter members were able to read the book to area schools and share the activities with the students.
3. Catherine Fowler is the teacher who challenges 2nd grade students who come to Frisco Heritage Museum one room school house on student learning trips. Catherine also hosts those who come to the one room school house during the monthly Frisco Heritage sponsored Open House Sunday. She volunteers her time, skill and expertise in a way that makes learning interesting and fun for children and adults alike. One student said" I wished that I could go to school here."
4. Eric Nishimoto is a multi-award-winning writer, commercial artist and strategic communications consultant, and an adjunct professor at the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas. Eric is the author of **Texas Maker**. This work of historical fiction reveals the life of Collin McKinney, for whom he county and county seat were named. Also he has served as liaison between the Commissioners Court and the Collin County Historical Commission for many years.
5. Pat Rodgers has been a passionate volunteer and board member for the Heritage Guild of Collin County for over 10 years. She has continued to develop and enhance and grow the Civil War Presentation to 5th graders in Collin County. Schools in Prosper and McKinney have seen the presentation. Pat created and implemented the monthly trolley tours that begin at Chestnut Square and take visitors on a tour around the historic district of McKinney.

Leadership in Preservation Award

1. **Awardee: Carolyn Corbin** started working on an idea to celebrate Collin McKinney's 250th birthday over 3 years ago. Carolyn, the leader of the Collin McKinney Historical Alliance brought all kinds of groups together to form a working alliance with assistance and support of Collin County through County Judge Keith Self. The various groups included descendants, corporate sponsors, authors, dignitaries, artisans, businesses, historians, and other volunteers. The 250th Birthday lasts the entire year of 2016 and is huge success.
2. City of Frisco has been outstanding in promoting respect for the past of the city of Frisco and Collin County through the historical projects that the city provides for the community. The main historic preservation project is the Frisco Heritage Center which is on a four acre site that is anchored by the 16,000 square foot Frisco Heritage Museum.
3. Collin County Commissioners Court has been a leader in historical preservation for many years. One of the ways that they have provided leadership in preservation is through the funding and support of the Collin County Historical Commission. Also for the last three years the Commissioners have supported the efforts of the Collin McKinney's 250th Birthday Celebration.
4. Heard Craig Center for the Arts has preserved the Heard Craig house in the following different categories: electrical, heating, and air conditioning, lighting, gardens, buildings, furniture,

clothing, art collections, china, glassware and more. In 2014 and 2015 the installations of a fire suppression system and of window film to keep light from eroding the antiques and collectibles have been completed. Thank you for taking care of the Heard Craig House and Carriage House.

Living Legacy of Collin County Award

1. **Awardee: Bill Haynes** for over 70 years has been an integral part of preserving and sharing the rich history of McKinney and Collin County. Upon retirement from public schools he returned to McKinney and with his love of history, spent time reading through the old McKinney newspapers that were on microfilm in the McKinney Memorial Public Library. His research filled three filing cabinets. Bill joined several historical organizations in the community and was a popular speaker for numerous clubs and historic organizations. Bill has written articles for the Dallas Morning News, McKinney Courier Gazette and the McKinney Living Magazine. He has been also responsible for preserving our history through securing Texas Historical Landmarks. One person said "I could listen to him for hours! He recalls dates and time periods without hesitation. Mr. Haynes is a great story teller. He has the ability to transform his topic into a time period that a listener is able to visualize and experience." Bill Haynes volunteers his time each Thursday as a visiting historian at the Collin County Historical Museum.
2. Judy Isabell has done many things to preserve the history of Frisco. Judy was instrumental in the research and writing of the tax incentive documents of the historic homes of Frisco. When Judy was secretary of the Heritage Association of Frisco she wrote a monthly newsletter. Also she was in charge of the archives of the Association for several years. Her artistic talents created outstanding displays in the windows of the Frisco Heritage Museum. Judy continues to research genealogy of Frisco families and deeds of Frisco's historic homes.
3. James West has done an array of projects at Chestnut Square for over 30 years. Recently he has redrawn plans to renovate the Taylor Inn and Dulaney House. James regularly volunteers to provide Dutch oven cooking in the Faires House to elementary school groups and public events. He also oversees Eagle Scout projects at Chestnut Square. James was a past recipient of the Living Legacy Award.

Young Visionaries Award

1. **Awardee: Cub Scout Pack 515** in conjunction with the Murphy Historical Society helps maintain the Murphy Family Cemetery and the Herring-Hogge Cemetery in Murphy. Since October 2015, the scouts of Pack 515 and parents have pulled weeds, pruned shrubs, bagged trash, cut dead trees, and thoroughly cleaned both cemeteries. In February the pack planted 150 Iris bulbs for a community program named Keep Murphy Beautiful. Also the scouts have helped the Collin County Historical Commission dedicate and unveil the Dublin School Marker in Murphy.