

Texas Heritage Museum is proud to help with historic preservation and education by being a member of the following organizations:



## Annual Membership Form

Please use a ballpoint pen.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CCV: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check or money order payable to Texas Heritage Museum. For your convenience, we also accept VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER & AMERICAN EXPRESS.

- Individual \$25     Family \$35  
 Business \$50     Patron \$100  
 Benefactor \$250

## Medal of Honor Memorial Brick Campaign

If you sign up for a membership with the Texas Heritage Museum today, you may also sponsor a brick at a discounted price of \$75. Using the space below, tell us what you would like your brick to say. Please limit to 15 characters per line and three lines per brick. If you decide to purchase more than one brick, please attach additional information to this form.

Those wanting to buy a brick without a membership may do so at the regular price of \$100.

- Yes, I would like to sponsor a brick.  
 Please add this amount to my membership.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



TEXAS HERITAGE MUSEUM

HOME OF THE OFFICIAL STATE MEDAL OF HONOR MEMORIAL TO NATIVE-BORN TEXANS

# LASTING LEGACIES NEWSLETTER



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## The Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College Receives Highest National Recognition



THE STATE OF TEXAS  
GOVERNOR

*To all to whom these presents shall come,  
Greetings: Know ye that this official recognition is  
presented to the*

Texas Heritage Museum  
Hill College

in recognition of being accredited by the  
**American Alliance of Museums**  
Hillsboro, Texas  
2023



*In testimony whereof, I have signed my  
name and caused the Seal of the State of  
Texas to be affixed as the City of Austin this  
the 26th day of October, 2023.*  
  
Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas

Texas Governor Greg Abbott's recognition for Hill College Texas Heritage Museum's AAM Accreditation

The Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College has achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public.

Alliance Accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for 50 years, the Alliance's accreditation program is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability. It strengthens the museum profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and remain financially and ethically accountable in order to provide the best possible service to the public.

"We are immensely proud that the Texas Heritage Museum has received accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. This achievement marks an important milestone in the history of Hill College. This affirmation of accreditation represents our unyielding commitment to national standards and best practices of museums. Our museum staff and colleagues from across the Hill College community worked tirelessly to achieve this highest national recognition and look forward to continued success in the future," said Executive Director & Chief Curator of the museum John Versluis.

Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, 1,102 are currently accredited. The Texas Heritage Museum is one of only 53 museums accredited in the state out of an estimated 2,400 museums.

"This is a momentous event for Hill College and the Texas Heritage Museum. Our museum is one of the crown jewels of Hill College and it is so rewarding to see John Versluis, Executive Director & Chief Curator the museum, and his team rewarded for their steadfast dedication to preserving and sharing our history," said Hill College President, Dr. Thomas Mills.

Accreditation is a very rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations. To earn accreditation a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, and then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. The Alliance's Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, considers the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation.





Rica Acevedo

We would like to congratulate Rica Acevedo on her retirement this past September. Rica worked at the Texas Heritage Museum since 2013. Over her career at the museum, she accessioned over 10,400 books in the Historical Research Center. The museum is grateful for her dedication and commitment.



Vonnie Morphew

The museum is happy to welcome Vonnie Morphew as the new education assistant. Vonnie has been at the college for 13 years in two positions, working for the last 10 years as the executive assistant to the president. "I absolutely love working with people and I love education, especially history, so I am thrilled to be in a position where I can merge those two and connect with students, community partners, and researchers."

Vonnie and her husband have been married for nearly 34 years, have two sons, two daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren. Her hobbies include reading and writing, family gatherings, being outdoors, sporting events, and spending time with her dogs.

## Texas Heritage Museum Executive Director and Chief Curator John Versluis receives the Jesse Jones Leadership Award

On October 6, 2023, Texas Heritage Museum Executive Director & Chief Curator John Versluis received the North Texas Community College Consortium Jesse Jones Leadership Award.

Each year, the Jesse Jones Leadership Award, the North Texas Community College Consortium's (NTCCC) highest honor, is presented to an individual who has shown the leadership, service, collaboration, and excellence in communication, to the North Texas community colleges they serve.

For 19 years, Versluis has guided the Texas Heritage Museum with dedication and direction, providing an invaluable historical resource to the college and the North Texas region.

Under Versluis's guidance, the museum received accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums, a national recognition to the museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional standards, and furthering institutional advancement. Accreditation is a very rigorous but highly rewarding process that examines all aspects of a museum's operations.

"We are very happy that John has received this much deserved recognition. Hill College and the Hillsboro community are truly blessed to have him and the abundance of value he adds," said Hill College President, Dr. Thomas Mills.



Left to right: Dr. Christine Hubbard, President of the North Texas Community College Consortium; John Versluis, Hill College Texas Heritage Museum Executive Director & Chief Curator; and Irene Accomando, Hill College Vice President of Student Learning and Success.

## Hill College Texas Heritage Museum presents exhibit for its centennial anniversary

In celebration of the centennial anniversary of Hill College, the Texas Heritage Museum is featuring memorabilia from seven former students who were some of the first graduates of Hill Junior College.

Hill College Artifacts from the Texas Heritage Museum showcases items donated by alumni who attended the college between the 1920s and 1940s and is a testament to former students' belief in the college and its importance to the community.

"We are proud to present an exhibit that showcases the early years of Hill Junior College from the 1920s through the 1940s. As you go through the exhibit, you will learn of Hill Junior College students who were athletes, scholars, and leaders, many of whom fought in WWII," said John Versluis, Executive Director & Chief Curator of the museum.

The exhibit will be on view through January 31, 2024.

## Hill College honors veterans at second annual Medal of Honor Brick Ceremony at the Texas Heritage Museum

On November 13, 2023, Hill College held its annual Medal of Honor Memorial Brick Ceremony at the Texas Heritage Museum on the Hill County Campus in recognition of the service of retired Colonel Michelle Bryant; retired Hospital Corpsman Third Class Dr. Dawn Cox; retired Technical Sergeant Luke (Scott) Glasscock; and retired Corporal Samuel M. Mills.

"America is indebted to the families and friends of the servicemen who stood, and continue to stand, behind our country's heroes. The bricks presented today continue that commitment of gratitude and the museum is grateful not only for the service today's honorees gave to this country but also for preserving the memory of all of those who have served in the past and those who continue to serve," said John Versluis, Executive Director & Chief Curator of the Texas Heritage Museum.

During the ceremony, Hill College President Dr. Thomas Mills thanked the four honorees and all those who have served this country. "We live in an amazing country and are blessed to live here. Safety does not come free. We, as citizens who benefit from those who have and continue to serve, need to say thank you more often. This ceremony doesn't do justice to all who serve, but it is a continued effort to do so," said Dr. Mills.

The Texas Medal of Honor Memorial was erected in 2008 and is a living memorial honoring native-born Texas veterans, including Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II, and Samuel Dealey, the most decorated sailor of World War II.



Retired Colonel Michelle Bryant



Retired Corporal Samuel M. Mills, accepted on his behalf by Dr. Thomas Mills.



Retired Technical Sergeant Luke (Scott) Glasscock



Retired Hospital Corpsman Third Class Dr. Dawn Cox

## Contacts

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## Hours

**Gallery & Collections**  
Mon. – Thurs., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Fri., 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Historical Research Center**  
Historical Research Center will be available by appointment only by calling **Mary Ann Schneider** at **254.659.7752**.



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