

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society

November 2023 Newsletter



Our Venues

Fielder Museum | 1616 W. Abram Street

Knapp Heritage Park | 201 W. Front Street

Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds | 600 W. Arkansas Lane

Contact Us

Email: fielderh@swbell.net

Website: www.arlingtontxhistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum

Phone: 817-460-4001

A note from the editor

Arlington's Christmas season is always a festive time. With the downtown Holiday Lights Parade and the Christmas Tree lighting at Levitt Pavilion, the Interlochen Christmas Lights, Six Flags Holiday in the Park, and many other special events, there is plenty to see and do. The Arlington Historical Society has some festive plans this year, too—check out page 5 for a guide to the Holiday Tour of Homes and Kringle Village!

Jason S. Sullivan, 12-04-23

Newsletter Editor

JasonSSullivan@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

- **December 10**—Holiday Tour of Homes, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- **December 16**—Wreaths Across America at Arlington Cemetery and Parkdale Cemetery
- **December 16 & 17**—Kringle Village presented by Dance Theatre of Arlington, Knapp Heritage Park, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- **January 18**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **February 15**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **March 21**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM

Arlington Historical Society news

Arlington's War Heroes: Celebrating Their Sacrifices & Achievements

On November 11th, to commemorate Veterans Day, our own Wanda Marshall gave a presentation at the Downtown Arlington Library. The presentation, entitled "Arlington's War Heroes: Celebrating Their Sacrifices & Achievements," was a poignant tribute to Arlington's hometown heroes.

Even though Arlington was a small town in the 1940s, a large percentage of our youth went off to serve our country in the war effort. Wanda knew many of the soldiers personally and has devoted years to collecting, preserving, and telling their stories.

In her presentation, Wanda had artifacts, memorabilia, photos, and maps from the Fielder Museum's collection displayed, and she also shared personal stories about some of the soldiers. Notably, she has compiled scrapbooks about the soldiers over the years, with newspaper clippings and other information. Newspapers, in fact, were an important way to keep the community informed, with them often printing details about the war and sometimes even letters sent back home.



Wanda told stories about the Gold Star Boys, a term that involved flags, or banners, that had blue stars for every family member serving in the war and were replaced with gold stars when one passed away in combat. The flags were presented to the mother of the family, not the wife, as most were young, unwed men without their own families. The families would often hang the flags in home windows or display them on their front porches so the community could offer their support.

She also told a memorable story about Pearl Harbor, recounting that students returned to school after the bombing. One of the young students asked their teacher—*"Who is Pearl Harbor?"*—thinking that it was a woman, since "Pearl" was a common name at the time. The innocence of youth and the realities of war can often be a stark juxtaposition.

"It was a different world back then," Wanda remarked with admiration near the presentation's end. She concluded with an audience question and answer session, and many people shared their own personal stories as well. Afterward, folks studied the artifacts she brought, with Wanda continuing to answer questions and offer insight.



The World War II exhibit at Fielder Museum began about 15 years ago, with a look at wars through the decades, starting with the 1940s. The project began with a list of 27 names listed in memoriam from a high school yearbook, and through further research, the list expanded to 50 names. Our World War II exhibit has evolved as well—it's the largest collection in our museum—and surely the largest collection of local military artifacts in Arlington. Additionally, Wanda is truly the subject matter expert in Arlington's military history, with a wealth of knowledge and passion for the subject. Few, if anyone, knows more about Arlington's military history than her. She has invested countless hours of research and often meticulously studied microfilm at the Downtown Library to learn more.

Arlington has lost more than 100 hometown heroes through the wartime effort, with the majority of those coming from World War II and the Vietnam War, and with most enlisted in the Army. Arlington lost 50 youths from World War II alone, from a population of about 5,000 people. (To put that ratio into perspective, that would equate to about 4,000 lost from today's population of 400,000 people.) As Arlington was such a small town back then, everyone in the community likely knew someone lost to the World War II campaign—a classmate, friend, neighbor, family member, or at least an acquaintance—which is partly why it remains such an important part of our history.

Local History news

New war memorials dedicated at Veterans Park

Also on Veterans Day, there was a special ceremony at Veterans Park. In addition to the annual Veterans Day remembrance ceremony, the event included the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony of the *Korean War and Korean Defense Veterans Memorial*—certainly a memorial of great importance, as the Korean War is often overlooked when it comes to remembrance and honoring the soldiers.



The event also included a dedication of the *Memorial To The Fallen*—a memorial in memory of Arlington's



heroes who gave their lives for our freedom while serving our nation in wars of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The new memorials were several years in the making, with fundraising, planning, and research going into the efforts.

Photo Credits: [Picture This On Granite](#) Facebook page, the organization involved with granite work for the memorials.

Miss Persis Forster honored with street sign toppers in Downtown Arlington

On November 18th, a ceremony was held at Miss Persis Studio of Dance to honor Miss Persis Forster, who opened the studio in 1954. Although she passed away in 2021, her legacy continues with the honorary street sign toppers. Her studio has been a staple of the arts and culture scene in Downtown Arlington for decades.



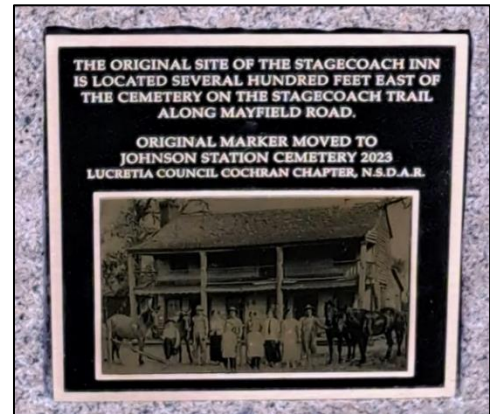
Look for the “Miss Persis Place” honorary street sign toppers in Downtown Arlington, near the dance studio.

Stagecoach Inn marker gets new home at rededication ceremony

On November 25th, the Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held a rededication ceremony for the Stagecoach Inn marker. The marker was originally placed in 1957 and located along West Mayfield Road in Arlington, in the former site of the Johnson Station community. Growth and development in the area, as well as other factors, prompted the organization to relocate the marker to a more secure location inside Johnson Station Cemetery.



The Stagecoach Inn, located in Johnson Station, served as an overnight stop between Dallas and Fort Worth, providing rest and other amenities for travelers. Similar accommodations were common along the stagecoach routes. The stagecoach made its final stop in Arlington in 1905, as railroads had become a more preferred travel and transport method.



Pictured are close-ups of plaques on the new marker.

Arlington Preservationists Recognized at City Council Meeting

Three Arlington Landmark Preservation Commissioners were recognized at the November 28th City Council Meeting for awards received in October at the Tarrant County's Historical Commission.



Pictured are Mayor Jim Ross, along with award recipients Jason Sullivan, Geraldine Mills, and Kristina Rumans, and Arlington's Historic Preservation Officer, Jacob Browning. Congratulations on the awards and recognition! **Photo Credit:** [City of Arlington Facebook page](#).

Holiday Events preview

The Arlington Historical Society has festive plans for the holidays! Join us at Fielder Museum for a stop on the Holiday Tour of Homes, or at Knapp Heritage Park for Kringle Village. Tickets for both events are available now!

Inaugural Diane Cravens Holiday Tour of Homes

—Event details:

- **Date:** Sunday, December 10
- **Time:** 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- **Cost:** \$25 each for regular tickets; \$45 each for VIP tickets. VIP tickets include a private reception at Fielder Museum from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, with special guests, mimosas, commemorative glassware, and light refreshments.
 - [Visit this link to purchase tickets!](#) Proceeds benefit the Junior League of Arlington and Arlington Historical Society, who are proud and excited to bring this festive new event to Arlington's Holiday Season!
- **Locations:**
 - Fielder Museum
 - Honorable Judge Mary Tom Cravens Curnutt & Kelly Curnutt home
 - Michael & Kristen Jacobson home
 - Kari, Kyle & David Sargent home
- **What to expect:** Each home will be festively decorated for the holidays. Guests can enter the homes, enjoy the beautiful decorations, and visit with the homeowners. Your ticket allows you to visit each of the homes, in whichever order you prefer, throughout the afternoon. **Please note:** *This is not a guided tour, and guests are responsible for their own transportation to each home.*
- **Honorary Chairman:** Judge Mary Tom Cravens Curnutt, daughter of Diane Cravens and former Junior League of Arlington President.



Kringle Village at Knapp Heritage Park, presented by Dance Theatre of Arlington

—Event details:

- **Dates:** December 16 and 17 (Sat & Sun)
- **Time:** 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- **Cost:** Adults are \$10, children under 12 are free
- **Location:** Knapp Heritage Park
- **What to expect:** With live entertainment, a holiday gift market, hot tamales for sale (and frozen ones you can take home), an appearance by Santa, and more, it's sure to be a fun and festive event for the whole family!

