

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society

May 2025 Newsletter



Our Venues

Fielder Museum | 1616 W. Abram Street

Knapp Heritage Park | 201 W. Front Street

Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds | 600 W. Arkansas Lane

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A note from the editor



Jason S. Sullivan, May 2025

Newsletter Editor

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This month's newsletter features a special tribute to longtime Arlington Historical Society volunteer Wanda Marshall, who passed away on May 10. We also have a look at our new exhibit, "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles," which is now open at the Fielder Museum. Plus, we had some fun on Facebook for National Hamburger Day.

And don't forget that the Texas Author Book Club continues to meet monthly at the Fielder Museum. Check out our calendar below for the dates and upcoming books.

Upcoming Events

- **June 19**—Texas Author Book Club discusses "The Reunion at Herb's Café" by Dan Jenkins—Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **July 17**—Texas Author Book Club discusses "Isaac's Storm" by Erik Larson—Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **August 21**—Texas Author Book Club discusses "Two Alone" by Sandra Brown—Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM

Arlington Historical Society News



In Loving Memory of Wanda Marshall August 25, 1932 — May 10, 2025

The Arlington Historical Society mourns the loss of Wanda Marshall, a beloved volunteer whose remarkable dedication spanned nearly three decades. Wanda, who passed away on May 10, left a profound mark through the countless stories she unearthed, the history she meticulously preserved, and the invaluable lessons she generously shared.

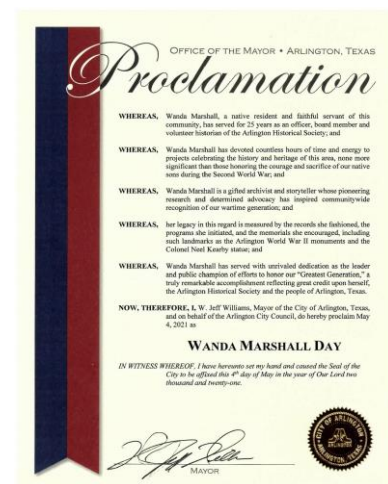
Wanda Roberson's journey began in Fort Worth in 1932 as the youngest of four children. She was raised in Dalworthington Gardens and met her future husband, Charles Marshall while attending Arlington High School. They both attended Arlington State College (now UTA) and were married in 1954 at Woods Chapel Baptist Church. They honeymooned in New Orleans.

The young couple embarked on a new adventure, settling first in Michigan, where their eldest children, Alan and Laura, were born. They later moved to Indiana, where their youngest daughter, Jennifer, was born. After 18 years in Indiana, Wanda and Charles returned to their roots, building a home and re-establishing themselves in Arlington.

Wanda joined the Arlington Historical Society in the late 1990s, where she would volunteer for nearly 30 years. While researching Arlington in the 1940s, she discovered an Arlington High School yearbook from 1946 listing the names of the young men who had served in the war. This discovery ignited a passion: to ensure that the stories of Arlington's World War II hometown heroes, their service, and their sacrifices would never be forgotten.

She devoted countless hours to research, learning more, and becoming our expert on World War II. Among her many discoveries was Arlington's first known Medal of Honor recipient, Col. Neel E. Kearby—an effort that led to the dedication of a bronze statue in his honor. Her extensive work also played a pivotal role in the creation of a monument commemorating the young men from Arlington who lost their lives in World War II.

Mayor Jeff Williams proclaimed May 4, 2021, as Wanda Marshall Day, recognizing her research, advocacy, and preservation efforts, particularly her work honoring Arlington's World War II heroes. The proclamation is quite the honor.



Visitors always admire the World War II room when they visit the Fielder Museum, and no one gave better tours of that room than Wanda. The Arlington Historical Society plans to dedicate the room to Wanda's memory and her years of service.

Wanda's funeral, held on May 16 at Wade Funeral Home in Arlington, was a testament to the lives she touched. Family, friends, and members of the Arlington Historical Society gathered to pay their respects.

Longtime friend and colleague Geraldine Mills delivered a heartfelt speech, painting a picture of their unique bond. Though seemingly opposites, Geraldine shared that their connection ran deep. *"You could always trust her to be Wanda,"* Geraldine stated, emphasizing Wanda's unwavering character and integrity. *"And she always had my back."*

Geraldine fondly recalled Wanda's unwavering dedication to research and her infectious enthusiasm for sharing Arlington's rich past. The recognition she received, Geraldine affirmed, was richly deserved. *"My life was 10 times better for knowing Wanda,"* Geraldine concluded, a sentiment undoubtedly shared by many who had the privilege of knowing this remarkable woman.

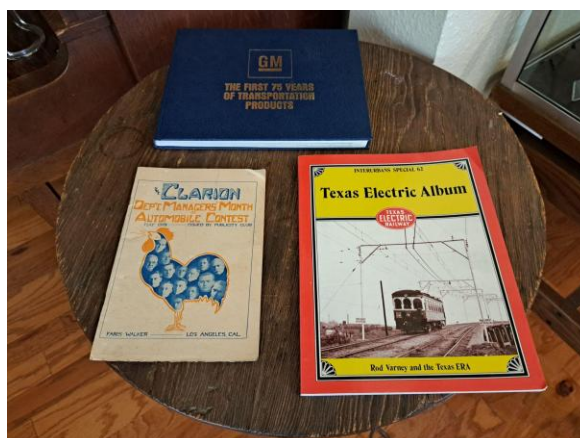


Photos

- Wanda's wedding photo (1954)
- Wanda and family at her 90th birthday party (2022)
- Wanda presenting at a Veterans Day Program (2023)
- Nancy, Wanda, & Geraldine (2024)

Planes, Trains, and Automobiles exhibit

Our new exhibit is now open at the Fielder Museum. Displayed are photos, artifacts, books, pilots' and flight attendants' uniforms, ephemera, and plenty more. Much of Arlington's history and identity can be traced through the planes, trains, and automobiles that have been an integral part of our city. It's a fun and informative look at local transportation. Come out & see it!



National Hamburger Day - May 28

We had some fun on Facebook for National Hamburger Day by sharing some newspaper clippings, ads, and articles about hamburgers from Arlington. Many people enjoyed the nostalgic (and tasty) trip down memory lane, celebrating not just a beloved food but also the iconic establishments that have served it up through the years.

Possibly the tastiest culinary creation ever assembled, you're never far from a good burger. From fast food to your favorite greasy spoon, hamburgers are an integral part of America's culinary landscape. People have strong opinions when it comes to burgers, with buns, patty styles, grilling methods, toppings, condiments, and sides susceptible to fierce debates.

But who has the best burger? Ask five people, and you'll get five different answers. Nonetheless, in February 1985, the Arlington Citizen-Journal newspaper published the results of their 'best burger' survey. Based on the results, you could find Arlington's Top Five burgers in 1985 at J. Gilligan's, Burger Box, Jackson's Grill, Big Al's Drive-In, and Coney Island Fairway. Honorable mentions also included Hudds, Arlington Point, JR Bentley's, Khaki's, and Cheddars. Remarkably, a few of those are still with us, some 40 years later.

Although likely too new at the time to be in 1985's Top Five, Chapps has been around for over 40 years now and is a modern-day favorite of many. And, of course, every burger lover has a dearly departed favorite they wish they could bring back, like the much-missed burgers from Rockyfeller's, Jim's, or Khaki's, among others.

Who has your favorite hamburger in Arlington?

