

Texas Heroes (830)833-0809 E-mail: Bob.Heinonen@TexasHeroes.net

Notice the name change?

We are still **Texas Heroes** but our breadth of history has expanded to include American history...and who knows what comes next. From this time forward, this newsletter will be known as:

FYI on History

What are we?

Autobiographical actors?
Impersonators?
Re-enactors?
First person interpreters?
Storytellers?

The answer is "Yes!".....
We teach while we entertain audiences of all ages.

It is time to reserve

A Cowboy's Christmas

Houston area
December 7-13

Dallas/Fort Worth area
December 14-19

Austin/San Antonio
December 20-24

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Great Teachers

My hat is off to the Lone Star Chapter of the Sons of The Republic of Texas. They have established annual Texas History Teacher of the Year Awards for Conroe ISD teachers. Here is their announcement:

The finalist teachers for the school year 2008/2009 are:

1st place

Gaddiel Jauregui Arrazate – Anderson Elementary. Gaddiel has been painting a mural in Anderson Elementary on his own time. The mural is dedicated to Texas History and is gorgeous! As a result of winning first place, **Texas Heroes** Bob Heinonen put on a fantastic play for the school in May as William Barret Travis.

2nd place:

Cindy Howard – Knox Jr. High. Cindy won first place last year and continues to work hard with Technology to promote Texas History. Her CISD

website is second to none with fantastic links.

3rd Place:

Michael Thorson – Moorhead Jr. High. Mr. Thorson is a dedicated Texas history fan and is several generations deep into Texas history, dating back well into the 1800's.

These teachers will receive the following cash awards and certificates at Lone Star Chapters meeting at the Steamboat House on July 18th, 2009.

1st place:

\$750.00, a certificate, dinner for two, and a school play by **Texas Heroes**

2nd Place:

\$500.00, dinner for two, and a certificate

3rd place:

\$250.00, dinner for two, and a certificate

CONGRATULATIONS TEACHERS!



Do It Now

Whether you are a school, museum, library, retirement community, or company, if you are thinking about reserving a **Texas Heroes** program, do it now.

I don't care if you are thinking about next month or next year, or wanting to hear the words of Sam Houston, Cynthia Ann Parker or Patrick Henry. Now is the time to reserve.

I don't know how many times I have had to disappoint people because we either wouldn't have the right performer in their area or the performer's time slot was already reserved. If you contact me now, we can work it out.

Holiday seasons are particularly busy because people want special programs for those times and our

programs are special.

Speaking of doing it now, I have just debuted the first in a six part **Patrick Henry Series**.

Part 1 is **Patrick Henry: Why America**. In this program Patrick Henry discusses what liberty really is as we defined it in the *Declaration of Independence of the united States of America* (yes, a small "u"), the *Articles of Confederation of The United States of America* (remember them?), and the *Constitution of the United States of America*. I interpret Patrick Henry as the ardent, fearless defender of liberty that he was.

Part 2 – **Patrick Henry: Our Constitution – What's Next**

Part 3 – **Patrick Henry on George Washington**

Part 4 – **Patrick Henry on Thomas Jefferson**

Part 5 – **Patrick Henry on Benedict Arnold**

Part 6 – **Patrick Henry: The Facts and Nothing But The Facts**

Part 6 is designed for schools and will have no political interpretation – just the facts and nothing but the facts.

You do not have to book the entire series since each program will stand alone.



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LEGENDS OF HISTORY

Legends are topics we love and hate. Legends are those parts of history that cannot be proven, but people want to believe they are true. Some are true; some are not. If you have a legend you would like addressed, let me know.

Legend: At the Battle of The Alamo at San Antonio de Bexar, Texas, on March 6, 1836, David Crockett (he preferred being called David) went down swinging Old Betsy (his trusty rifle) leaving piles of dead Mexican soldiers around him.

What We Know Now: Around 1955, the de la Peña diary was made public and debate raged for years on its authenticity because there have been documents "found" that were incredibly good forgeries. Then, around 1996, the verdict came in that it is probably an original piece of work by an officer known to be in Santa Anna's army at The Alamo; his name was José Enrique de la Peña. The paper it was written on was found to be of the period and available in northern Mexico; the handwriting seems to match other documents written by de la Peña. Unfortunately the most used translation from Spanish into English of the de la Peña diary had some translation errors that changed the meanings of some statements by de la Peña. A subsequent, painstaking translation was made by James Crisp that cleared up a number of earlier problems in understanding and misunderstanding what de la Peña was trying to say.

*How did
Davy
Crockett
die?*

In his diary, de la Peña said that seven Texans were captured at The Alamo and brought before Santa Anna. Commanding General Santa Anna was asked what to do with them. Santa Anna asked why they were still alive at which point his young officers drew their swords and executed the Texans. De la Peña says that among the captives was David Crockett.

Don't everyone get up in arms about this – no one said old Davy surrendered. The reality is that when you only have a single shot rifle that takes 20-30 seconds to reload and a knife, and are jumped by a dozen soldiers, you get captured. De la Peña never suggests the executed prisoners were cowards - on the contrary, he writes, "these unfortunates died without complaining and without humiliating themselves before their torturers."

August's Legends of Texas: 10,000 Mexican soldiers, under General Santa Anna, attacked The Alamo

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July Performances

Day Organization

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| 1 | Chandler Retirement Apartments, San Antonio |
| 2 | Meadows Retirement Community, San Antonio |
| 2 | Querencia at Barton Creek, Austin |
| 3 | Patriot Heights, San Antonio |
| 3 | Morningside Ministries at Menger Springs, Boerne |
| 4 | The Continental, Austin |
| 6 | Parkway Place, Houston |
| 6 | The Terrace at First Colony, Sugar Land |
| 7 | Camden Royal Oaks, Houston |
| 8 | St. Dominic Village, Houston |
| 8 | University Place, Houston |
| 9 | Forum at Memorial Woods, Houston |
| 10 | Copperfield Estates, Houston |
| 10 | The Terrace at West University, Houston |
| 14 | The Conservatory at Wells Branch, Austin |
| 15 | The Towers at Park Lane, San Antonio |
| 16 | Horizon Bay at San Antonio, San Antonio |
| 21 | Texoma Children's Museum, Denison (2 performances) |

The first in the **Patrick Henry Series** is in demand this month:

Patrick Henry:
Why America

This is the reservation list as of the issuance of this newsletter. For an up-to-date list, check our website calendar at:

http://www.TexasHeroes.net/Texas_Heroes_calendar.htm

For a list of all clients, go to <http://www.TexasHeroes.net/ThePast.html>