Rayburn Museum Receives Federal Matching Grant

In January 2005, the Center for American History received a federal matching grant award in the amount of $200,000 for repairs at the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum. Congress chose the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum for preservation and identified it in its fiscal year 2005 Appropriations Act. The award was given as part of the Save America’s Treasures initiative of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Center is now actively raising funds to match the grant. Matching funds must be used for costs directly related to and necessary for the repair and preservation of the facility. The Center has already identified several pressing needs for the funds, including repair of the roof, upgrading the air conditioning and heating equipment, and modifications to bring the building into full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

H. G. Dulaney Receives Public Service Award

Over one hundred people gathered at the Legacy Ridge Country Club banquet room in Bonham, Texas, on June 11 for the first annual Friends of Sam Rayburn Awards Banquet to honor H. G. Dulaney, the longtime director of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum and former aide to Speaker Sam Rayburn. At the banquet, Dulaney received the first

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ever H. G. Dulaney Friends of Sam Rayburn Award for Public Service.

“In recognition of H. G. Dulaney’s longstanding service to Speaker Rayburn, the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, and the people of Bonham, the award shall be known as the H. G. Dulaney Friends of Sam Rayburn Award for Public Service,” stated Curtis Smith, President of the Friends of Sam Rayburn.

“It is only fitting that we recognize the many years of H. G.’s service and we are proud to name this prestigious award after him.”

Awards program emcee Dr. Randy McBroom of Texas A&M Commerce highlighted Dulaney’s long career with Speaker Rayburn, as well as his community service in Bonham. Dulaney’s close friend Congressman Ralph Hall presented him with an American flag that was flown over the United States Capitol.

Dr. Don Carleton, Director of the Center for American History, recalled his many years of association with Dulaney when Dulaney served as director of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum. Carleton described him as “the model of selfless public service.” The award presentation was introduced by Bonham Mayor Roy Floyd, who said of Dulaney: “He’s an uncommon man. He’s spent his whole life serving others . . . he’s a gentle soul.” The actual presentation of the award was made by Dulaney’s longtime friend and associate, Dee J. Kelly of Fort Worth, President of the Sam Rayburn Foundation.

Dulaney joined Speaker Rayburn’s staff in 1951 and worked for Rayburn in Washington and Bonham until the Speaker’s death on November 16, 1961. When Rayburn built the library in Bonham, he hand-picked Dulaney to be the director. Dulaney, along with John Holton, Jack Neathery, Jane Lagler, and Evelyn Henson, and under the direction of National Archives Assistant Director Karl Trever, were responsible for cataloguing the thousands of books and preparing the displays for the dedication of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum on October 9, 1957. Dulaney served as director of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum from its opening until his retirement in 2002.

In addition to paying tribute to this unique individual, the banquet was held as a fundraiser for the Friends of Sam Rayburn. This organization functions primarily to assist the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum and the Sam Rayburn House Museum, which is operated by the Texas Historical Commission, in their numerous projects and activities. Smith attributed the success of the event to the many participants, corporate sponsors, and individuals who came and gave of their time and money to support one of Fannin County’s well-known and well-loved citizens.

Speak, Mr. Speaker Returns

Speak, Mr. Speaker, the newsletter of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, has returned to your mailbox. It is in a new format, and will appear twice yearly, in the summer and winter. We hope you like the new look and the content this newsletter provides. We also heartily welcome your feedback. Please feel free to write, call, or email us at the address on the back page — we want to hear from you! ♫

H. G. Dulaney, the former director of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum and first recipient of the H. G. Dulaney Friends of Sam Rayburn Award for Public Service, is congratulated by Dr. Patrick Cox (l), the assistant director of the Center for American History who oversees the operations at the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, and Dr. Don Carleton (r), Director of the Center for American History.

Worth, President of the Sam Rayburn Foundation.
Rayburn Foundation Awards Scholarships to Area Students

The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum held its annual scholarship awards reception on May 18. The scholarship program, administered by the Sam Rayburn Foundation, honors graduating seniors from Fannin County high schools. Dr. Patrick Cox, Assistant Director of the Center for American History, and H. G. Dulaney, member of the board of directors of the Sam Rayburn Foundation, announced the recipients of the J. F. and Marjorie McKnight and H. G. Dulaney Scholarships.

The recipients of the 2005 J. F. and Marjorie McKnight Scholarship are Paul Talley and Jayme Brown, both of Bonham High School. The recipients of the inaugural H. G. Dulaney Scholarship are Chris Casperite, Bonham High School; Heather Alford, Lauren Bellows, Derek Bohannon, Weston Bush, Matt Cox, Justin Rhudy, and Justin White, Ector High School; Justin Weeks, Dodd City High School; Katie Skidmore, Sam Rayburn High School; and Brooke McGehee, Savoy High School.

In 1991, the Sam Rayburn Foundation received a bequest from the will of Marjorie P. McKnight, a former resident of Bonham and close friend of The Honorable Sam Rayburn, which specifically designated a portion of her estate to provide scholarships for graduating Bonham High School seniors. Having no children of their own, the McKnights felt that a scholarship was the best legacy they could leave to the school children of Bonham, which they had enjoyed serving for so many years.

Luncheon Honors the Board of the Friends of Sam Rayburn

On April 20, the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum and the Sam Rayburn House Museum hosted a luncheon at the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum in appreciation of the board of directors of the Friends of Sam Rayburn. The luncheon was held in conjunction with the Friends of Sam Rayburn monthly board meeting.

During the business portion of the Friends meeting, Sharron Cox was newly elected to the board of directors and current board member Malda Kueckelhan was reelected to the board. The board also elected its officers for the coming year. Curtis Smith was elected president, Kueckelhan was reelected vice president, Jerry Gay was reelected treasurer, and Robin Loreth was elected secretary. Joining these officers on the board of directors of the Friends of Sam Rayburn are Judy Teller, Joe Gilbreath, James Stewart, Glynell Sewell, and Cox.

The board awarded certificates of appreciation to outgoing president Richard Danner and sitting vice president Kueckelhan for their long years of service to the board of directors.
Spotlight on the Sam Rayburn Collection ➔ Rayburn and Garner

The Sam Rayburn Collection at the Center for American History contains hundreds of photographs that document the political figures in Texas and Washington who shaped twentieth-century world events. Among them is the photo to the right, which shows Vice President John Nance Garner, a resident of Uvalde, Texas, with his friend and colleague Rep. Sam Rayburn of Bonham.

The Sam Rayburn Collection is a treasure trove of photographs, original letters, political cartoons, art, furniture, and personal memorabilia documenting the life and career of Rayburn as well as the significant events that occurred during this momentous period in American history in which he played a key role. Rayburn’s papers are housed and available to the public at the Center’s Research and Collections division on the Austin campus of the University of Texas; additionally, microfilm copies of his papers are available for use at the Rayburn Library and Museum in Bonham.

The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum is a component of the Center’s Congressional History division, one of the nation’s largest archives of congressional history. The John Nance Garner Museum—Garner’s former home in Uvalde and the collections it contains—is a component of this division as well.

Community Support from Bonham Area Is Coming up Roses

The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum is currently undergoing a renovation of its building, grounds, and exhibits. One of the first projects to be completed in this ongoing renovation is the replanting of the rose garden. Groups and citizens within the Bonham community have eagerly joined in the efforts to restore the building and grounds of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum to their original beauty.

The Friends of Sam Rayburn recently donated $1,000 to the Master Gardeners Club to assist with the renovation of the rose garden on the east lawn, known as Miss Lu’s rose garden. At Speaker Rayburn’s direction, the garden was planted in 1956 in memory of his sister, Lucinda Rayburn, who died a year before the library’s completion.
PRIVATE SUPPORT CRUCIAL TO CENTER’S PUBLIC WORK

The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum is a component of the Center for American History’s Congressional History division. This division within the Center comprises one of the nation’s most important collections of congressional history. In addition to the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, the Congressional History division includes the John Nance Garner Museum in Uvalde, Texas, as well as the papers of more than fifty former and current members of Congress, including Sam Houston, Morris Sheppard, James Buchanan, Maury Maverick, Ralph Yarborough, Joe Kilgore, J. J. “Jake” Pickle, and Lloyd Bentsen.

The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum was opened in 1957. In 1991, the Sam Rayburn Foundation transferred ownership to The University of Texas at Austin. When the Center for American History was created at UT-Austin in 1991, it absorbed from the UT General Libraries the Barker Texas History Center and the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum.

Public funds provide for only a portion of the annual operating costs of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum. There are several ways you can help ensure the success of this important Texas resource:

GIVE AN UNRESTRICTED OR RESTRICTED CASH GIFT —

You can give a cash gift by mailing a check or money order to the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum. You can also give a cash gift online:

WWW.UTEXAS.EDU/SUPPORTUT/GIVEONLINE

(On the “Make a Gift Online” page of the Support UT website, in the “Select an Area” drop-down window be sure to designate “American History, Center for” and specify in the accompanying text box that you would like your gift to be used for the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum.)

A cash gift can be paid in one lump sum, or pledged to be paid in installments.

APPLY FUNDS TO AN EXISTING ENDOWMENT, OR CREATE A NEW ONE —

There is currently one endowment that supports the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum — the Sam Rayburn Library Endowment, established in December 1990. An endowment can be established or increased in one lump sum, or the amount can be pledged to be paid in installments.

DONATE A COLLECTION OR ITEMS OF ARCHIVAL MATERIAL —

If you have a collection or items of archival material that you think might enhance the collections at the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, or any of the other congressional history collections at the Center, we will be happy to discuss your potential gift to determine if the materials are an appropriate fit for the Center’s collections.

MAKE A PLANNED GIFT —

You may designate a future gift to the Center to be given through your estate.

Some gifts to the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum bring the donor benefits from the University, as well as benefits from the Center for American History and its Sam Rayburn Library and Museum. If you are interested in giving a potentially tax-deductible gift, please call David Dettmer, Assistant to the Director, at the Center’s administrative offices at 512 / 495 4515, or email him at ddettmer@mail.utexas.edu, to discuss your options. No gift is too large or too small in helping to preserve American history.
Event Will Celebrate Fiftieth Anniversary of Groundbreaking for Rayburn Museum

The Center for American History will hold a major event in Bonham, Texas, on Friday, December 9 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the groundbreaking for the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum.

The morning program will feature speeches by dignitaries from Congress, as well as by officials from Washington, D.C., and the University of Texas. Among those planning to be in attendance are University of Texas Board of Regents chairman James R. Huffines, UT-Austin president Larry R. Faulkner, historian of the U.S. House of Representatives Robert V. Remini, Rep. Ralph Hall (Texas 4th District), and Rep. Joe Barton (Texas 6th District).

The program will also feature the dedication of the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum as a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition, past members of Sam Rayburn’s staff will be honored guests and recognized during the ceremony.

On Thursday, December 8, the Center will present to the public its newly refurbished exhibits in the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum during the Holiday Open House. This event is held annually in conjunction with the Sam Rayburn House Museum and the Fannin County Museum of History.

Event Will Celebrate Fiftieth Anniversary of Groundbreaking for Rayburn Museum

Speaker Sam Rayburn breaks the ground for his library and museum, December 10, 1955. Joining him are Fannin County Judge H. A. Cunningham (l), architect Roscoe Dewitt (behind), and Ernest W. McFarland (r), governor of Arizona.