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You are cordially invited to attend a
Dedication Ceremony
honoring the sacrifice of
Trinidad Coy
former Texas Ranger
A Texas Ranger Memorial Cross, presided by the Former Texas Rangers
Association, will be unveiled marking the honored Ranger's grave
and
A Defender's Medallion, awarded by the D.R.T. for service in the
Texas Revolution of 1835-36 by
Trinidad and Antonio Coy
will also be unveiled.
Saturday, April 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
San Fernando Cemetery #1
1100 S. Colorado Street, San Antonio, Texas

Texas Ranger John Coffee Hays will be honored on the 2018 medal to be issued by the Texas Numismatic Association. Rangers are also honored by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and the Former Texas Rangers Association.

Texas Ranger on TNA's 2018 medal

By Frank Galindo

In the annals of Texas history, one group of men stand as gallant defenders of early Texas, even before it became a Republic. It is the courageous Republic of Texas Rangers and their history that the new Texas Numismatic Association medal honors. This 2018 medal also commemorates the 195th anniversary of the founding of the Texas Rangers.

Stephen F. Austin is known as the "Father of Texas," but he could also be appropriately called the "Father of the Texas Rangers." It was Austin's responsibility to colonize and protect the original 300 families that arrived in the Mexican province of Tejas. To protect the families from fierce Indians raids, he founded the renowned Rangers in 1823.

The Rangers later became one of the most dedicated and fearless forces to patrol and defend vast areas of uninhabited terrain. They were often on the trail for weeks in search of hostile Indians and cattle rustlers, thieves, murderers and an assortment of other dangerous criminals.

Ranger companies were called by many names at various times. They were known as Spies, Scouts, Ranging Companies, Mounted Volunteers, Mounted Rifle Companies, as well as others.

John C. Hays, who is featured on the obverse of the 2018 TNA medal, was born Jan. 28, 1817 in Wilson County, Tennessee. In 1836 he traveled to Texas. Sam Houston had a close connection to the Hays family, so he appointed him to a company of Texas Rangers. Hays soon

became a leader and led the Rangers on several important campaigns against violent attacks by rebellious Indians.

Captain Hays was one of the most daring and respected leaders of the Rangers. His companies were comprised of Anglos, Tejanos and Indians, who served proudly in all ranks from private to captain.

Captain Hays died April 21, 1883, in California and is buried there, but he is remembered in Texas. Hays County was named in his honor. There is a monument to him on the Hays County Courthouse lawn in San Marcos, Texas.

There are countless early Rangers of the Republic who played important roles in the development and protection of our great state. In 1839, two companies of volunteers were raised in San Antonio. One was led by Col. Juan Seguin and comprised of Tejanos, and the other was comprised of Anglo-Americans led by L.B. Franks. Each company was composed of 54 or 55 men. The men had to supply their own horses, weapons, rations and other equipment. These companies were authorized by a Proclamation of Mirabeau Lamar, while serving as President of the Republic of Texas.

These heroic men are now being recognized, thanks to historians, researchers and genealogists, who are now helping to identify them. Two of these Rangers were brothers, Trinidad and Antonio Coy.

Last year I attended a Texas Ranger ceremony honoring Trinidad Coy, a former Republic of Texas Ranger who served with his brother under Hays. A Texas Ranger memorial cross, pro-

vided by the Former Texas Rangers Association, was unveiled marking the honored Ranger's grave. A Defender's Medallion, awarded by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas for service in the Texas Revolution of 1835-36 by Rangers Trinidad and Antonio Coy, was also unveiled. Former Ranger Ray Martinez was there to represent the Former Texas Ranger Association and dedicate the Texas Ranger Memorial Cross.

The information used for this article was obtained from several sources: The Former Texas Rangers Association Museum, The Handbook of Texas Online, and personal conversations with my friend, Yolanda Kirkpatrick, author, researcher, genealogist, historian and descendant of Ranger Trinidad Coy. She provided invaluable copies of documents and historical books. Thank you, Yolanda.

The obverse of the 2018 TNA Medal features Captain John C. Hays, one of the most renowned Texas Rangers of the Republic of Texas. The reverse of the medal shows the official seal of the Texas Numismatic Association. The medal was designed by TNA Medals Officer Frank Galindo of San Antonio, Texas.

Orders for the TNA medal may be placed for the silver and bronze medal set, or single bronze medals. Send them to Galindo at P.O. Box 12217, San Antonio, TX 78212-0217. Bronze medals are \$6.50 postpaid. Medal sets are \$45 plus \$4.50 for postage. Add \$2.50 if insurance is requested. Make checks payable to TNA.

Email karf1@netzero.net for more details. Medals will be mailed in June.