

Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum

Educational Resources



People Spotlight: Captain Wright

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The following article has been adapted from the former website of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum.



OBITUARY

James A. Wright

1929-2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Retired Texas Ranger Captain James Alvis Wright on Friday, January 3rd, at the age of 95. Captain Wright's remarkable life and career were a testament to quiet leadership, dedicated service, and an unwavering commitment to the State of Texas.

James Alvis Wright was born on August 22, 1929, in Hamilton County, Texas, to Armon Alvis ("Red") and Naomi Estella Wright. He graduated from Hamilton High School in 1947 and soon began his career at Lawson's John Deere Implement Company in his hometown. In 1949, he married Laura Jean Harcrow, and together they built a life centered on family and service. Laura Jean preceded him in death in 2009.

Captain Wright's career in law enforcement began on January 3, 1957, when he joined the Department of Public Safety as a Highway Patrolman. Over the years, he served in Falls and Bosque Counties, where his commitment and dedication to the community were evident. His growing interest in criminal investigations led him to apply for the Texas Rangers in 1969.

As a Ranger, Captain Wright served at Fort Fisher in Waco, working under the leadership of renowned Captains like Clint Peoples. In 1981, he was promoted to Sergeant in Dallas's Company "B," earning the respect and admiration of his peers. By 1986, his quiet yet effective leadership earned him the rank of Captain, where he continued to lead with humility and distinction until his retirement in 1991.

Captain Wright often reflected on his career with gratitude, saying:

"I was tickled to death to be a Highway Patrolman, Ranger, Ranger sergeant, and Ranger captain. I had a good career, but I just felt like it had come to the point where it was time to retire. I'm glad I retired; I'm happy being retired. I wouldn't want to go back, but I wouldn't take anything in the world for it."

