

Texas Czech Genealogical Society Hosts Event April 22

In January of this year, the Texas Czech Genealogical Society (TCGS) announced their theme throughout the year would be "Tracking Our Footprints". With the theme as their guide, they are seeking to help all individuals who are searching the paths of their Czech ancestors throughout Texas, the United States and the Czech Lands of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.

On Saturday, April 22, the Texas Czech Genealogical Society will host a research opportunity of a lifetime. Hundreds of books will be made available beginning at 10 a.m. in East Wing

of the Nueces County Memorial Agricultural Center, located at 900 East Ave. J, in Robstown. These books will help all those concentrating on Czech genealogy.

Two guest speakers will add to the day with their timely presentations. In the morning, Edwin Wallek, Jr. will help us remember moments in our childhood with his presentation on Home Remedies. Edwin asks that if those planning to attend have any antique medicine bottles, or newspaper ads to bring them along. Not only will these add to the presentation but an open forum will follow his

presentation.

Following a lunch of roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dinner rolls, tea and a dessert; Patrick Janis of Victoria will help attendees with his presentation on Organizing Your Research Materials. This presentation, given at the genealogy conference hosted by TCGS last year, is one that is often requested because of the many helpful hints Patrick introduces.

The days activities will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost for the entire day, which includes lunch and both presentations, will be \$8 per person if registered before April 14. Send registration fee to: Sallie Wendt, 361 N. Post Oak Lane #145, Houston, TX 77024, 713-682-6262. After April 14 and

at the door, registration will be \$10 per person. More information can be found on the TCGS website at www.txczgs.org

Dental Benefits Available To Kids In CHIP

Young Texans in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) now have an even bigger reason to smile. Starting April 1, CHIP is expanding to include dental benefits, including regular check-ups and other critical dental services.

"CHIP is a great program that has just been made better with the addition of dental benefits," says Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Albert Hawkins. "For families who are struggling to make ends meet, CHIP can make a big difference."

Dental benefits for children in CHIP include routine check-ups, cleanings, X-rays, sealants, fillings, tooth removal, crowns/caps and root canals.

Families with children enrolled in CHIP will receive a letter and handbook explaining the dental benefits, a member ID card and a directory of participating dentists.

CHIP provides health care coverage for children in families who earn up to 200% of the federal poverty level. That's \$40,000 a year for a family of four. In addition to dental services, CHIP covers doctor visits; immunizations; hospital care; behavioral health services; surgery; X-rays; physical, speech and occupational therapies; prescription drugs; vision services; emergency services; and, transports.

To start an application or get more information about CHIP, call 800-647-6558. Assistance is available in English and Spanish from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday.

Nurse Refresh Course Offered Through Blinn

A refresher course for inactive registered and licensed vocational nurses interested in re-entering their profession is being hosted by Blinn College in conjunction with Austin Community College through the Virtual College of Texas.

The first course will begin June 26 and continue through Oct. 16.

The course is produced online, providing a flexible alternative to traditional classroom-based refresher courses. In addition, students must complete a clinical preceptorship coordinated by Blinn.

"The overall goal of the project is to provide a distance learning nursing refresher course that results in an increase in the number of nurses accessing such programs in the state of Texas," said Craig McCollor, Blinn's continuing education Virtual College of Texas coordinator. "This project helps nurses reconnect with healthcare."

The deadline to register for the first class is June 19. Only 10 students will be accepted into the first course, so early registration is encouraged, McCollor said.

The course will be repeated Aug. 21 and continue through Dec. 11. The registration deadline for the 10 spots in that class is Aug. 14.

More information about the course is available at <http://blinncollege.vct.org>.

Students interested in registering for the courses should contact McCollor at craig.mccollor@blinn.edu. To register by phone using a credit card, call (979) 209-7205 or visit the Blinn College Workforce Education office at 301 Post Office St. in Bryan.

Monetary donations given to the library were from Alice Hinze, Wayne Nichols and Phil Mailloux.

The library received the following memorials for the month: In memory of Marvin Appelt; Bill and Lillian Gohlke; In memory of Dennis Fuller; Willard and Irene Hagendorf; In memory of Dalbert McKee; Wayne and Natalie Dupre; Irene Hagendorf Shirley Moore, and Bill and Lillian Gohlke. Thanks for your support.

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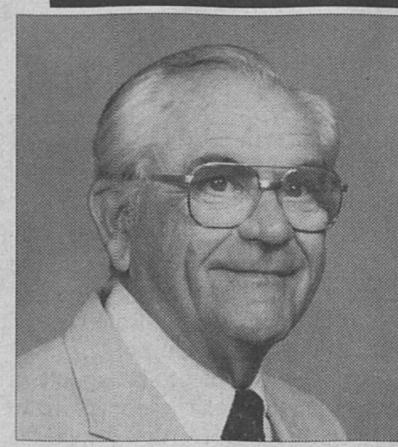
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Obituaries



Rev. E. Stephen Raby

E. Stephen Raby, 81, of San Angelo passed away Sunday April 2.

Steve was born in Quincy, Pennsylvania on June 11, 1924 to Earl B. and Helen Staley Raby.

He graduated from Quincy High School in 1942 and received a Bachelor's Degree from Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pennsylvania in 1947.

Steve attended Bonebrake Seminary in Dayton Ohio, and earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1948.

In 1949, Steve married Lillian Ruth Isenhower, of Lissie, and became an honorary Texan.

While attending school, Steve served several student pastorates.

After his seminary graduation, he served churches in Myersville, MD, Wormleysburg, Pennsylvania and York, Pennsylvania before moving to San Antonio.

In San Antonio, he pastored the First Evangelical United Brethren Church which later became Albright United Methodist Church. Steve faithfully served that congregation from 1964 until his retirement in 1985.

Steve was also known around San Antonio as an avid golfer and bowler. For many years he was a 'regular' at Windcrest Golf Club, Willow Springs Golf Course, Wonder Bowl and Astro Bowl.

Since 1998, Steve has resided in various assisted living and care facilities. He quickly made himself at home wherever he was, and he made friends with his new neighbors. He was popular in all his homes for his quick wit, his willingness to participate in community activities and for his strong singing voice.

Steve is survived by his children, Stephen I. Raby of San Angelo and Debbie Steinbach of Mertzon, along with her husband, Phil and son, David; sisters, Gladys Taylor, Lorraine Misner and Arlene Dougherty of Pennsylvania and Lavilla Robinson of Florida.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lillian; brother, Eugene Raby; and sisters, Madeline Harbaugh and Alese Bishop Holland.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, April 6, at 10 a.m. at Windcrest United Methodist Church, 8101 Midcrown Drive in San Antonio. Burial will be at the Masonic Cemetery in Eagle Lake at 3:30 pm. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice or to First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 583, Mertzon, Texas 76941.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.



Sis. Loreca Thomas

Loreca Thomas passed away March 15.

She was born December 27, 1932 the daughter of Mr. C.L. and Florence Matthews in Colorado. To this union nine children were born.

Loreca attended E.H. Henry High School in Eagle Lake.

At an early age, Sis. Loreca joined and was baptized at Mount Carmel Baptist Church. She continued walking with the Lord, until her death, at White Cloud Baptist Church under Rev. Obie Rhodes.

She later married Deacon Oscar Thomas Sr. To this union five children were born.

Those who have preceded her in death are; her parents; her husband; sons, Master Sergeant Roger Matthews and Frank Thomas; sisters, Earlene and Flora Mae Matthews; brothers, Claude Lewis Matthews, Oswald Matthews and Alfonse Matthews; and a special niece, Calandra Matthews.

Sis. Loreca Thomas leaves to cherish her memory: Oscar Thomas Jr., and Henry Thomas, Lola Hemphill and beloved Godson, Royce McMillian Jr. and Darryl McMillian; one devoted sister, Opeline Crow; three brothers, Glen Matthews (Dorothy) Edward D. Matthews (Melva) and Wilbert Matthews (Earline); one aunt, Eunice Sutton and devoted daughter-in-law, Jean Etha Thomas; a devoted sister-in-law, Mattie Matthews; a special nephew she cherished, Len Carson Matthews, as her son; special friends, Mrs. Betty Stevenson, Georgie Hemphill, Alice Kuykendall and Hazel Bradshaw; a special neighbor, Ronia Hurd; and a host of close relatives and friends that will miss her dearly.

Funeral services were held Saturday, March 25 at 12 p.m. from White Cloud Baptist Church with Rev. Obie Rhodes officiating. Interment followed in Rising Star Cemetery in Eagle Lake.

Pallbearers were Walter Foster, Maurice Oliver, Greg Hemphill, Rev. Arthur Banks, Arthur J. Rhodes and Herbert Ashton.

Honorary pallbearers were Glen Matthews Jr., Edward Frank Matthews, Fletcher Hardison, Wilbert Matthews, George Whitelaw, Lee Carson Matthews, Oliver Matthews, John Matthews, and Frank Thomas Jr.

Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Birth, Death Certificates Online

Birth and death certificates can be ordered online, the Texas Department of State Health Services announced recently.

Previously, the certificates could be requested only by mail, fax or by visiting the DSHS vital records unit in Austin or one of the 490 local registrars' offices throughout the state.

Certificates may be ordered online at www.texasonline.com.

DSHS Chief Operating Officer Randy Fritz said, "Customers needing copies of birth or death certificates should find the speed and convenience of the new online ordering system a real timesaver."

He clarified that while certificates can be ordered online, they cannot be downloaded or printed.

Online ordering of a birth certificate for a birth that occurred in the last 75 years is limited to the individual for whom a birth certificate is requested and to the mother or father of that individual.

Online ordering of death certificates for deaths that occurred within the last 25 years is limited to the surviving spouse, a parent of the deceased and to certain funeral directors.

Verification of any birth, death, marriage or divorce—regardless of date—also is available online.

Forms for ordering by mail can be downloaded from the DSHS website, www.dshs.state.tx.us.

TexasOnline.com is the official eGovernment website for the State of Texas.

Bible Verse of The Week

"Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Joshua 1:9

Submitted by Carol Cardenas

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