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**21 YEARS 2021**



**2021**

**Memorial Day**

Pages 6,7 & 12



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(In The Shade Of The Courthouse)

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VOL. 22 ISSUE 1100, May 26, 2021

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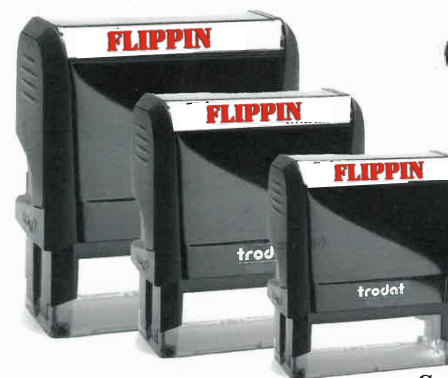
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# Como Pickton FFA Ambassadors



**FIVE MEMBERS** of the Como-Pickton FFA Chapter Selected to serve as Foundation Ambassadors or Senior Ambassadors are from L-R: Logan Langley, Presley Cummins, Baylee Bowen, Kara Tift, & Landan Cummins

Como, Texas – Logan Langley and Landan Cummins of the Como-Pickton FFA Chapter have been selected to serve as Texas FFA Foundation Ambassadors at the 93rd Annual Texas FFA Convention held July 5 – 9th in Fort Worth, Texas. Additionally, Baylee Bowen, Kara Tift, and Presley Cummins have been selected to serve as Senior Texas FFA Foundation Ambassadors.

Cummins, Langley, Cummins, Bowen, and Tift were just five of 70 FFA members chosen to participate in the Foundation Ambassador program. The Foundation Ambassadors serve as official liaisons to sponsors, special guests and dig-

nitaries on behalf of the Texas FFA during the annual Texas FFA Convention. Each student applied through a competitive application process and will participate in an extensive two-day training specifically focusing on donor relations, personal skills development, and professional networking.

At the 93rd Annual Texas FFA Convention, members of the agricultural youth leadership organization will spend the week attending leadership workshops, participating in activities, and serving as the legislative body for the Texas FFA Association.

The Texas FFA has evolved from an organization focusing primarily on produc-

tion agriculture, to a broader-based organization which addresses the needs and interests of students in urban and suburban schools in addition to the rural communities from which FFA rose in 1929. The organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Student Success in Agriculture Education In a very competitive process, five Como-Pickton FFA members were selected to serve as Texas FFA Foundation Ambassadors this summer at the State FFA convention. This is a very competitive process and we are very proud of these students.

Let's look for ways we can let students who are graduating from high school or college know that we appreciate their efforts and support them in their choices for careers. Now is a time to celebrate their yeats of hard work and dedication!

Til next week, I will watch for you atop the Corral Gate, where it's dry!

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# Memorial Day

## SALUTE

Let's take time to remember all of the soldiers who have valiantly defended our freedom in all wars and conflicts, suffered injuries and made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of democracy. May we treasure the rich heritage of freedom they have fought so bravely for.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War 1, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May.



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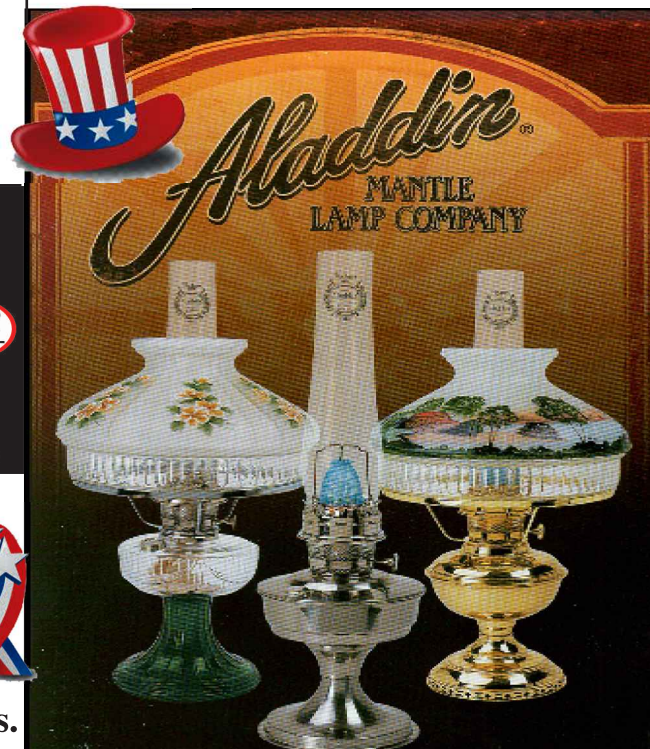
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# History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in service of the United States of America. It's difficult to prove the origins of this day as over two dozen towns and cities lay claim to be the birthplace. In May 1966, President Lyndon Johnson stepped in and officially declared Waterloo, N.Y. the birthplace of Memorial Day.

Regardless of the location of origins or the exact date, one thing is crystal clear. Memorial Day was borne out of the Civil War (which ended in 1865) and a desire to honor our dead. On the 5th of May in 1868, General John Logan who was the national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, officially proclaimed it in his General Order No. 11.

Part of the history of Memorial Day will show that in the Order, the General proclaimed, The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. Because the day wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle, the General called it, The date of Decoration Day.

On the first Decoration Day, 5,000 participants decorated the graves of 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried at Arlington Cemetery while General James Garfield made a historic speech.

New York was the first state to officially recognize the holiday in 1873. It was recognized by all northern states by 1890. Differently, the South refused to acknowledge the day and honored their dead on separate days. This went on until after World War I when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war.

With the Congressional passage of the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 363), it is now observed on the last Monday in May by almost every state.

This helped ensure a three day weekend (Memorial Day Weekend) for Federal holidays. In addition, several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead: January 19th in Texas; April 26th in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Mississippi; May 10th in South Carolina; and June 3rd (Jefferson Davis birthday) in Louisiana and Tennessee .

## History of Memorial Day: Red Poppies

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red That grows on fields where valor led, It seems to signal to the skies That blood of heroes never dies.

She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need.

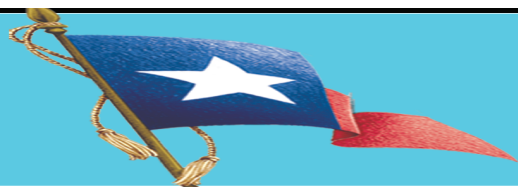
Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael. When she returned to France she made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women. This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help.

Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922, the VFW became the first veterans organization to nationally sell poppies.

Two years later their Buddy Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948, the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

## National Moment of Remembrance

Memorial day history couldn't be complete without the birth of the the National Moment of Remembrance , which was a resolution passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to Taps.



# TEXANS

# King Ranch

Near Kingsville, Texas

King Ranch is the largest ranch in the United States. At some 825,000 acres it is larger than the state of Rhode Island. It is mainly a cattle ranch, but also produced the Triple Crown winning racehorse Assault. The ranch is located in South Texas between Corpus Christi and Brownsville adjacent to Kingsville. It was founded in 1853 by Captain Richard King and Gideon K. Lewis. It includes portions of six Texas counties; most of Kleberg and much of Kenedy, with portions extending into Brooks, Jim Wells, Nueces, and Willacy counties. The ranch does not consist of one single contiguous plot of land, but rather four large sections called divisions. The divisions are the Santa Gertrudis, the Laureles, the Encino and the Norias. Only the first two of the four divisions border each other, and that border is relatively short. The ranch was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961. The Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame inducted the ranch in 2019.

This section possibly contains original research. Please improve it by verifying the claims made and adding inline citations. Statements consisting only of original research should be removed. (July 2016) (Learn how and when to remove this template message)

Richard King (1824–1885) was a river pilot, born in New York City to Irish immigrants. He was indentured to a jeweler at age 11, but later ran to sea, eventually attaining a pilot's rating. In 1843, King first met his future business partner in the King Ranch, Mifflin Kenedy (1818–1895), captain of the steamboat Champion. Both served under General Zachary Taylor (later the 12th US president) operating steamboats from Brazos Santiago Harbor in Texas, USA, to Matamoros in Mexico, and on up river to Camargo, Tamaulipas, in support of the U.S. invasion of Monterrey and Saltillo. After the Mexican–American War, King made a good living hauling merchandise on the Rio Grande river, as far up river as Camargo, and Rio Grande City. In the meantime, Kenedy was able to make money by carrying goods overland into Mexico. By March 1, 1850, King, Kenedy, Charles Stillman, founder of Brownsville, and James O'Donnell entered into a business partnership (M. Kenedy & Co.) to transport Stillman's goods from Brazos Santiago Harbor on the Gulf of Mexico and up the Rio Grande. The enterprise required two types of steamers — the Grampus and Comanche. During the American Civil War, the steamboat fleet was reflagged under the name of the Matamoros, Mexico citizen Francisco Iturria and the Mexican flag. As Mexico was a neutral country, the steamboats could not be stopped by Union blockaders, and engaged in a lively commerce of transporting Texas cotton to many deep-water ships anchored offshore Matamoros, on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande. Stillman sold his share of the enterprise after the Civil War; the new firm operated as King, Kenedy & Co. until 1874.

King first saw the land that would become part of the King Ranch in April 1852 as he traveled north from Brownsville to attend the Lone Star Fair in Corpus Christi, a four-day trip by horseback. After a grueling ride, King caught sight of the Santa Gertrudis Creek, 124 mi (200 km) from the Rio Grande. It was the first stream he had seen on the Wild Horse Desert. The land, which was shaded by large mesquite trees, so impressed him, when he arrived at the fair, he and a friend, Texas Ranger Captain Gideon K. "Legs" Lewis, agreed then and there to make it into a ranch. The King Ranch LK brand, still in use today, stands for partners Lewis and King.

King and Lewis established a cow camp on Santa Gertrudis Creek. During this time, Richard King purchased the Rincón de Santa Gertrudis grant, a 15,500 acres holding that encompassed present-day Kingsville, Texas. It was purchased from the heirs of Juan Mendiola of Camargo on July 25, 1853, for \$300. King sold Lewis an undivided half-interest in the land for \$2,000. At the same time, Lewis sold King undivided half-interest in the ranchos of Manuel Barrera and of Juan Villareal for the same sum, on November 14, 1853. In 1854, King and Lewis purchased the de la Garza Santa Gertrudis grant from Praxides Uribe of Matamoros for \$1,800, on the condition of a perfected title (complete documentation of the land grant) on May 20, 1854 to 53,000 acres. As the years passed, more land was added, growing to 1.2 million acres at its largest extent, until reaching its current total.

In 1855, Lewis was killed by the husband of a woman with whom he had been having an affair. On July 1, 1856, a court sale of Lewis' property (including the undivided half-interest in the land of the Ranch) was held. King had arranged for Major W. W. Chapman (died 1859) to bid on the Rincón property, which Chapman acquired for \$1,575. Chapman had been the quartermaster of Fort Brown in Brownsville, and regulated the steamboat contracts to supply Fort Ringgold, up river in Rio Grande City. Chapman's heirs published the letters home from his wife in the 1992 book *The News From Brownsville*.

King interested Captain James Walworth in acquiring the entire de la Garza grant, which Walworth completed on December 26, 1856, for \$5,000 paid to Praxides Uribe. King thus retained operational control of the Ranch, with Walworth as a silent partner who held title to the land, and who paid taxes on it. King and Walworth's livestock brand was registered June 27, 1859 along with his earlier brands.

When King and his partners began hiring people to staff the ranch, they hired a number of Mexican hands. In one notable case, King traveled to the village of Cruillas, Tamaulipas, Mexico in the early months of 1854 (the village having been decimated by a severe drought) and purchased the village's entire cattle population. But shortly after leaving the village, King realized that, by solving the village's short-term problem (providing needed income to survive the drought), he created a longer-term one (now the village had no source of future income). King thus returned to Cruillas and offered the entrada of villagers the opportunity to work for him, in exchange for food, shelter, and income. Many of the villagers accepted King's offer and relocated to Texas. As the ranch grew, its hands came to be called *kineños*, or "King's men". Over time, some original grantees returned to their land. King once said he "could not have kept on and held on if Andrés Canales had not been adjoining."

Records show a Mexican range cow cost \$6 in 1854, a mustang horse cost \$6, and a stud horse cost \$200–300. In sum, in 1854, King paid \$12,275.79. Lea estimated the 1855 expenses were smaller. The first brand was the *ere flecha* (an R with arrow through it).

In 1859, the ranch recorded its first official brands (HK and LK). In 1869, the ranch registered its "Running W" brand, which remains the King Ranch's official mark today. At the time, the ranch grazed cattle, horses, sheep and goats. By the mid-1870s, though, the ranch's hallmark stock had become the hardy Texas Longhorn. The ranch also boasted several Brahman bulls, as well as Beef Shorthorns and Herefords. The Brahmans, which were native to South Asia, were well adapted to thrive in South Texas' hot climate; they were crossed with the ranch's Beef Shorthorns to produce the ranch's own trademark stock — the Santa Gertrudis cattle, which were recognized as a breed in 1940.

Lea portrays King's purchase of the Ranch as motivated by his wooing of Henrietta Maria Morse Chamberlain (1832–1925), whom he married in the First Presbyterian Church, Brownsville, on Sunday, December 10, 1854. The King Ranch HK livestock brand stands for Henrietta King.

In the United States Civil War, initially, the disruption of the flow of cattle to market caused a drop in beef prices. In 1861, the price of cattle to \$2 a head, rising to \$11 per head by August 1862.

The 1863–1864 winter pushed uncounted cattle south toward the Nueces and Rio Grande Rivers. By the end of the Civil War, the Texas Rangers were disbanded by the following reconstruction of the United States. It became too tempting to simply herd cattle across the Nueces or Rio Grande.



# Obits



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### **Thomas "Tom" Michael Stewart**

Memorial service for Thomas "Tom" Michael Stewart, age 87, of Sulphur Springs, will be held at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, May 29, 2021 at Myra Wilson Chapel with Military Honors provided by the Hopkins County Military Coalition. Tom passed away on December 11, 2020.

He is survived by wife, Carolyn; daughters, Elizabeth Jane Stewart (Joseph Pignatello) of Hamden, Connecticut, Alice Freeman Stewart (Kevin Swanson) of Thetford Center, Vermont, and Kathleen Anne Stewart (Barry Wood) of Centreville, Virginia; grandchildren, Clare Swanson and Connor Pignatello; stepdaughter, Betsy Levenson (Kenny) of Houston, Texas; stepson, Scott Keys (Amy) of Sulphur Springs; step-grandchildren, Kelly Keys, Blake Irving, Grant Levenson, Bailee Keys, Katie Levenson and Hunter Coleman; great-grandson, Trenton Irving; brother, Robert Bruce Stewart of Cincinnati, Ohio; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



### **Kenneth Baxter**

A funeral service for Kenneth Baxter, age 76, of Sulphur Springs, was held at 4:00P.M. on Sunday, May 23, 2021 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Bro Jacob Smith and B.J. Teer officiating.

Interment followed at Riley Springs Cemetery with Bo Baxter, Logan Caddell, Randy White, David Dunn, John Campbell and Heath Gammill serving as pallbearers.

Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Baxter passed away on May 20, 2021 surrounded by his family.

Kenneth Glenn Baxter was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas on September 16, 1944 to Elsie (Prim) and Joseph Wayne "Pop" Baxter. He was raised in Brashear and graduated from Cumby High School in 1963 where he excelled at basketball.

On January 22, 1971 at Union Baptist Church, Kenneth married Charlotte Jean Baxley, who survives him.

After operating a dairy for many years, Kenneth also worked for AK Gillis and Sons for more than 40 years as a heavy equipment operator and superintendent. His friends and coworkers affectionately referred to him as Lightning. For more than 50 years, Kenneth was a faithful member of Union Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs.

Kenneth is also survived by his brother William Baxter and wife Betty; his children Missy Caddell and spouse, Alan; Christopher Baxter and spouse, Julie; Kenneth Odell Baxter and spouse, Samantha Crouch; Joseph Craig Baxter and spouse, Amanda; grandchildren Lyndsi White and spouse, Randy; Logan Caddell and spouse, Brandi; Bo Baxter and spouse, Breezy; Kadi Falls and spouse, Colton; Olivia Baxter, Austin Baxter, Brycen Baxter, Cade Baxter, Dillynne Baxter, and Ellie Baxter; and great-grandchildren Luke White, Jude White, Jake White, Samantha White, Ky Caddell, Jaylee Caddell, and Newt Baxter, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. Arrangements were under the direction of Murry-Orwosky Funeral Home.



### **Virginia Lindley**

Graveside service for Virginia Lindley, age 86, of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, May 29, 2021 at Restlawn Memorial Park. Mrs. Lindley answered God's call on May 20, 2021, in Mesquite, TX.

Mrs. Lindley entered this world on May 24, 1934 in Hopkins County, TX to John and Norris "Susie" (Curlin) Kelly. She married Raymond E. Duffey who preceded her in death. She later married Willie Lindley. Virginia was a faithful and dedicated housekeeper at Sulphur Springs Memorial Hospital until retiring after 30 years of service.

The simplest pleasures in life brought great joy to Mrs. Lindley. She loved knitting, cooking, and spending time with her family. She also enjoyed tending to her farm and gardening. Mrs. Lindley received her education in a one-room schoolhouse in Como, TX, and was a member of the Martin Luther King Church of Christ.

Mrs. Lindley was a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt, and grandmother. To many, "Big Mama" is how she was best known and will be remembered.

She is survived by her 6 children: daughters Annie Sue Duffey, Curtis Johnson, Ethel Fay Shaw, and sons Johnny Duffey, Allan Duffey and Roy Dean Duffey. She is also survived by 6 siblings: Lola Davis and Toni Williams (Dallas, TX), Bobbie Reece, Bertha Shaw, Ruth Johnson, and David Kelly. She leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, both husbands, 7 brothers, 1 sister, and 1 daughter.

Arrangements are under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

## Miscellaneous

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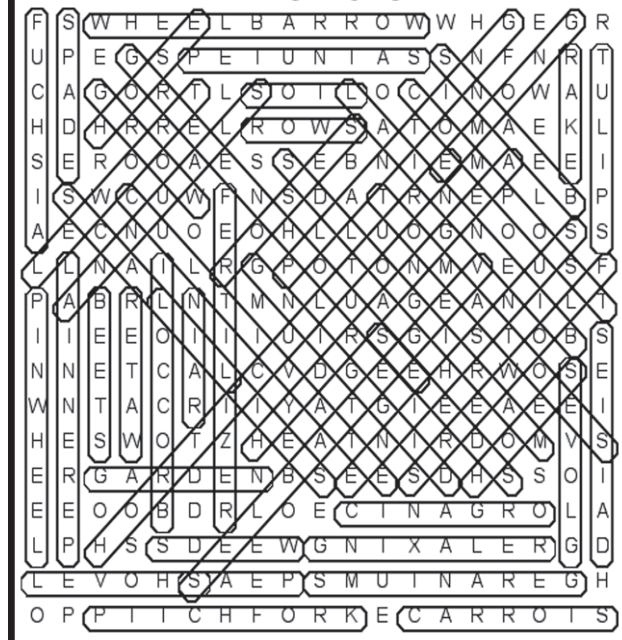
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She worked in law offices for 40 years but always dreamed of owning a pie business. When she bought ten acres of land in the country she started making pies.

"I took a piece of plywood and make a tacky sign with the words HOMEMADE PIES on it and put it by the road every Sunday. My house sits near the road where the sign is and I'd sit on the porch and wait for a car to stop. Then I'd haul pies down there. I baked all day Saturday." She has a cafe that is open Thursdays through Sundays. During the pandemic she shut down her dining room but that didn't stop customers from coming.

"They started bringing card tables and chairs and telling me 'we miss you.' They'll sit outside and I'll serve them pie under the shade trees in my picnic area. I'll carry the coffee pot out there and give everybody an extra splash of coffee. I have these two crazy donkeys that'll stand there and watch people eat and bray at them."

She just serves breakfast now (yummy cinnamon rolls). Later she might resume serving lunch (a glass of cornbread and milk is on the menu). People around Flynn must have been hungry for pie because they brought dishes, mixers, coffee makers and other appliances and donated them to Kelly when she opened. She has a catering business.

"You can buy a meatloaf dinner or chicken and dump-lings. I do fried chicken. People call and say 'there's seven of us can you make us a fried chicken dinner?' I make it and they'll come pick it up."

In the summer she makes a salsa.

"I call it THE GHOST MAKER 'cause it'll kill ya."

Mostly, though, she makes pies. Most people buy a whole pie rather than just a slice.

"I make a Texas Southern Pecan, Bourbon Pecan, Caramel Pecan. Those are all twenty dollars. Double crust fruit pies are twenty. All my other pies are fifteen. I'm not in this to get rich. I'm in it because I love it. I meet people from all over and that's what I enjoy."



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