



Obituary



John Miller Morris

1952 - 2017

The Staff and Board of the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum are sad to note the passing of John Miller Morris, Jr., 64, on February 16, 2017 in a San Antonio hospital after surgery. He served as a Texas Ranger Laureate advising us on aspects of Texas Ranger history relevant to the Frontier Battalion.

John grew up in Amarillo in the Texas Panhandle and his early experiences in the southwest shaped his work, home, and life. He was an Eagle Scout and high school and obtained a bachelor degree (Plan II Honors Program), two master's degrees (Community & Regional Planning and Slavic Literature and Language), and a doctoral degree (Geography and Planning) from The [University of Texas](#) at Austin where he also competed in fencing. He had a life-long involvement in the family's business, the C.B. Morris Company, one of the first family farm corporations in Texas.

As a scholar, he authored and edited books and was appointed to a full professorship at the University of Texas at San Antonio. His books include *El Llano Estacado* which remains the definitive work on the history, geography, culture and peoples of the Texas Panhandle region, and *A Private in the Texas Rangers: A.T. Miller of Company B, Frontier Battalion*. He received multiple awards including the UT Regents Outstanding Teaching Award and the Piper Professor Award for his "dedication to the teaching profession and for outstanding academic achievement."

John was well-respected throughout the state and was a member of many professional organizations including the Texas Institute of Letters, the Texas State Historical Association, and the West Texas Historical Association (current president).

One of his many legacies is a 140-year-old Victorian house he rescued from demolition in the west campus area in 1978, moved twice, and lovingly restored in the woods and hills of west Austin.

Excerpted from the *Austin American-Statesman* Mar. 6, 2017

