

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES

Heritage Association of Frisco

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Edition 3, Volume 2

Researching, Preserving, and Sharing Frisco's Rich History

www.friscoheritage.org

LEGENDARY CENTENARIAN

How do you celebrate a living legend? No seriously... when someone is an actual **Living Legend**, how do you even begin to acknowledge a lifetime—100 years to be exact—of a life very well lived?

In this month's edition of the *Frisco Heritage Times*, we look back and honor the extraordinary life of Frisco's own, Bob Warren, who celebrated his 100th birthday on February 1st.

While many of our esteemed members and readers may be quite familiar with "Mayor Bob," there might be a few tidbits of information that you didn't already know and may lead you to love him even more, if that's possible. We hope you enjoy our heart-felt tribute to our favorite humorist, historian, and humblest of leaders—Bob Warren.



Bob and Ann Warren attending the Collin County Community College *Living Legend Award Ceremony* where he was aptly honored in 2005.

Photo Courtesy of Warren Family

ANOTHER BIG BIRTHDAY BASH IN FEBRUARY!

Mayor Bob isn't the only one celebrating a birthday in February. Frisco's 119th birthday is marked by the date in 1902 when the Black Land Town Site Company first held auctions selling lots in Frisco's downtown area. According to the Heritage Association of Frisco website, the area where the lots were being auctioned in 1902 was considered the "Original Donation" which is a tad bit ironic, since the land wasn't actually donated. The "Original Donation" section of Frisco that was first auctioned off fell between what is now John Elliott Street on the west, North/South County Road on the east, Walnut Street on the north and Ash Street on the south.



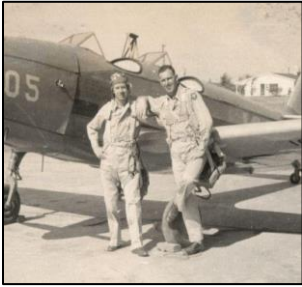
Photo Source: Visit Frisco Website

If you look closely in the photo of Main Street Frisco above, you will see a blue pedestal clock in the foreground. That clock was installed in 1996 and dedicated to Bob Warren as a "Thank You" for his years of service as a Council Member and Mayor from 1983 to 1996.

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES

LIVING LEGEND INDEED

Frisco has been spoiled to have been served by a leader with the humility, integrity, and vision that Bob Warren epitomizes. Frisco would simply not be the community we love without his dedication and leadership. Here are just a few of the highlights of Bob's legacy of service.



Bob (L) Pilot training in a PT19, May 1943

After graduating from Texas A&M, Bob enlisted in the Army Air Corps and trained as an aviation cadet. After completing the program, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and served in Europe as a pilot in the Troop Carrier Command.

When Bob retired from Humble Oil (aka Exxon), he and Ann packed up the family and returned to Frisco in 1981. His first run for City Council was in 1983 (newspaper photo shown to right). Bob served on council for six years and was then elected as Mayor from 1989- 1996.



In 1989, Bob was recognized by the Frisco Chamber of Commerce as the **Person of the Year!**

Of the many awards and accolades that Bob has received over the years, most of them specifically call out his life-long commitment to serving not only the community, but his country as well. Among these awards, being selected as one of Collin College's Living Legends in 2005 was, as he shared with Frisco Style magazine in 2006, "an unexpected and very humbling experience." Frisco Style Magazine, 2006

2006 was a big year for Bob as he was not only recognized as the very first **Person of the Year** by Frisco Style Magazine, but received the **Spirit of Frisco** award from the Chamber of Commerce. He followed that up the next year to become the Chamber's 2007 **Silver Citizen of the Year**.

In 2018, the Collin County Historical Commission honored Bob with the **Living Legacy Award** in recognition of his work to preserve Frisco's history and heritage. They described Bob as, "the very definition of a living legacy." One example they highlighted of Bob's dedication to historical preservation was when he campaigned to have the original 1912 calaboose moved to the Frisco Heritage Center. After engineers determined it would be impossible to move safely and intact, Bob led the charge to build a replica which was dedicated in 2015.

Collin College's **Living Legends** are selected using the college's core values as criteria. Their core values of *Learning, Service and Involvement, Creativity and Innovation, Academic Excellence, Dignity and Respect, and Integrity* are ALL qualities Bob Warren modeled as a father, community leader, and friend. The College's website describes that "The Living Legends tribute honors individuals who have gone the extra mile in the community."



Bob accepting the Living Legacy Award in 2018.

Photos courtesy of the Warren Family and the Frisco Heritage Association

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES

PRESERVING FRISCO'S HISTORY... ONE ARTIFACT AT A TIME

Bob Warren is a walking, talking Frisco history lesson. When you think about it, the city is only 19 years older than he is. It's as if they grew up together, which might explain why he has been such a powerful advocate for preserving the rich history of this community where he was born and has lived and served for so many years.

Linda Sutton, original owner and editor of the Frisco Style Magazine, shared the story of how three friends sat around the table at La Hacienda Ranch on Preston Road one fateful day in 1997. The three were lamenting how the historical structures around them—buildings that used to be significant landmarks in the town of Lebanon—were one-by-one being erased from the landscape. Those three friends were Linda, Sharon Weinberg, and Bob Warren and here is how Linda describes what they later called, "The Spark of an Idea."

"We wondered what would be left of Frisco's history since it had been declared the fastest growing city in Texas. Daily, the dozers were digging, old homes and buildings were being torn down, pastures were being paved over faster than anyone could have imagined. Frisco's history was fading. And, as Sharon who worked for the local newspaper reminded us, records of Frisco's history were being lost as older people passed away and photos and documents left town with their children. I asked Bob if the city was making any plans toward Frisco's 100-year birthday in 2002. After all, a 100-year birthday party required several years of advanced planning. He said he hadn't heard anything about it. We three let all this information and regret gel in our brains and hearts...then, the spark of an idea flew between us. We believed Frisco's history was worth saving and celebrating, and we were going to see if other's felt the same way!"



FRISCO Frisco Heritage Center

*Artist's rendering of Frisco Heritage Center
Photo courtesy of the Frisco Heritage Association*

Linda, Sharon, and Bob didn't realize it at the time, but they had just unleashed an idea that would ultimately create the Heritage Association of Frisco as well as propel the fundraising and support for the Heritage Museum and the preservation and relocation of precious buildings such as the Lebanon Baptist Church, the Crozier-Covington-Sickles House, the Smith-Muse House, as well as the creation of the Frisco Train Depot replica.

We will forever be grateful for that fateful lunch oh so many years ago where three friends who shared a love for Frisco sparked the idea that helped to save our history.

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PRESERVING FRISCO'S HISTORY... ONE STORY AT A TIME

HERITAGE COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT:



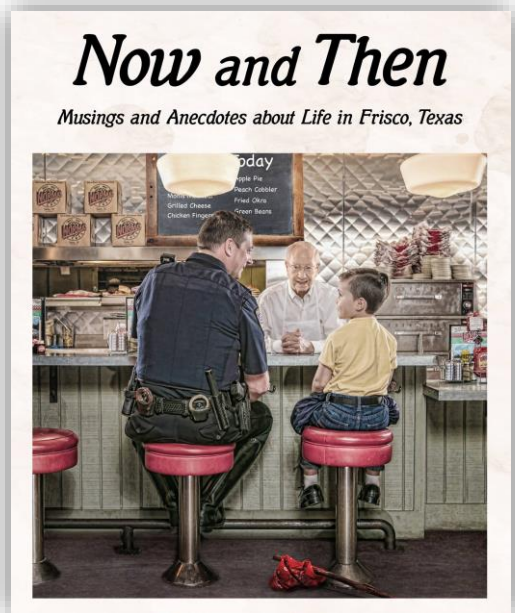
Tucked inside the Heritage Museum is an exhibit highlighting Curtsinger's Drug Store. The image to the left is the exhibit and the black and white image is an original photo from inside the store.

In this iconic photo of the store, you can see, on the right side of the room is a long counter. Behind the counter would have been the soda fountain. Unlike today, where most sodas are self-serv at local convenience stores, years ago, you would have been served your soda by someone referred to as a "soda jerk." This moniker had nothing to do with one's personality (*usually*) but was used to describe the person behind the counter because they would have to pull down, or jerk, the handle to pour the beverage. One of Bob Warren's more notable jobs was as a soda jerk at Curtsinger's back there, behind that bar! At the ripe old age of 13, Bob could be found, behind the bar, serving up ice-cold sodas.

Fast forward about 60 years and we find ourselves in 1995 when Bob Warren started writing short, humorous, historical articles for Frisco Style Magazine. By 2018, he had published 116 of these short stories, which were compiled into two different volumes called, "Now and Then: Musings and Anecdotes about Life in Frisco, Texas." In 2019, both volumes were combined into one "Anniversary" edition by Style Publishing Group. The book jacket is shown to the right.

If you look closely at the cover photo, you will notice a nostalgic Norman Rockwell-esque image of Bob Warren recreating his days as a soda jerk behind the counter, preparing to serve one of Frisco's finest and a sweet young customer. Since Curtsinger's Drug Store was no longer an option for the photo shoot, the Frisco Style team set up shop at Norma's restaurant in Frisco and captured this classic image. The book itself is still available for purchase online via the link below:

<https://store.bookbaby.com/book/nowandthen>

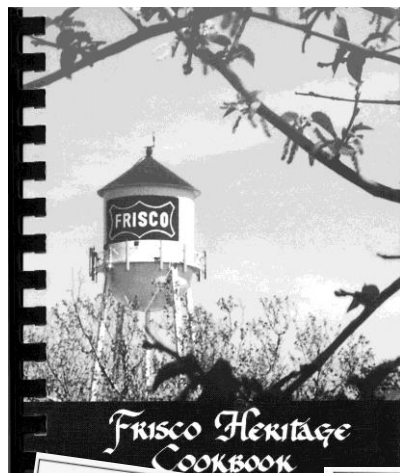


*Photo courtesy of the
Frisco Style Magazine*

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WARREN FAMILY FAVORITE

This month's highlighted recipe comes to us from the kitchen of Ann Warren. According to Bob and Ann's daughter Tami Marlin, this recipe was a family favorite among her and her siblings. She shared, *"The Taco Soup recipe was a big hit! I still make it all the time, as does my daughter. I've shared it with so many people! If you haven't tried it, I highly recommend it!"*



TACO SOUP

Ann Warren

2 lbs. ground beef
1 lg. onion
1 (4-oz.) can chopped green chilies
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. lemon pepper
1/2 tsp. sugar

1 pkg. taco seasoning
1 pkg. Ranch dressing mix
2 cans whole-grain corn, undrained
2 cans pinto beans, undrained
3 cans chopped stewed tomatoes
1 1/2 c. water

Brown meat and onion. Stir in remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil then simmer 30 minutes on low, stirring frequently. Serve with hot cornbread. Yields 10-12 servings.



The Warren family 1958 (L to R) Tami, Kay, Phil, Don, Ann, Van, and Bob

Photos
courtesy of
Warren
Family

Heritage Association of Frisco

Researching, Preserving and Sharing Our Heritage

1998 Officers

President	Dr. Erwin Pink
First Vice President	Bob Warren
Second Vice President	Sharon Weinberg
Secretary-Recording	Ruby Nichols
Secretary-Corresponding	Linda Sutton
Treasurer	Clara Bacchus
Coordinating Vice Presidents	
Fund Raising	Harold Bacchus
Centennial Celebration	Linda Sutton
Public Relations/Reporting	Donna Zambiasi
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Collection of Historic Photographs	Sharon Weinberg
Collection of Artifacts & Memorabilia	Sammy Vaughn
Coordination of All Other Committees	Elizabeth Pink
Preservation of Historical Sites	Vivian McCallum
Short Stories Antedoted (Historian)	Lois Cates

Heritage Cookbook Committee

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Dorothy Keeran
Jackie Brooks
Winola Pearson
Betty Venable
Dorothy Griffin
Orela Baccus
OmaLee Phillips
Annie V. King
Doris J. Marshall
Jean Wade
Becky Sears
Roxie Watson
Mary Boals
Wilma Fisher

Expression of Appreciation

The Frisco Heritage Association proudly presents this cookbook in recognition of Frisco's Centennial Celebration.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the people who worked so diligently in preparing this book. A project of this scope could not succeed without the cooperation and assistance of many.

Special acknowledgements of appreciation are extended to all the people who so generously shared their treasured recipes, to the community churches that responded with announcements, to the committee members for their assistance, to the members of the Heritage Association Board, to Sally Bryson, and especially to Janis Watkins. Art work for Zellers for artwork on the division pages. Thanks to Frisco Enterprise for picture on cover

The Frisco Heritage Cookbook was a tangible labor of love from the newly formed Heritage Association of Frisco in 1999.

Recipe photos courtesy of
Heritage Association of Frisco

**What favorite recipe has been handed down
through the generations in your family?
Share it with us on our Facebook page.**



1976 (L to R) Van, Tami, Phil, Kay, Don, Ann, and Bob

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MEMORY LANE

*Photos courtesy of the Warren Family,
Mike Simpson, Dana Baird, and the
Heritage Association of Frisco*

Bob and Ann's
Wedding, May 9, 1942

Jack Thomas and
Bob, about 1924.
He was already
patriotic!

Bob and Beth
Warren

Warren family 1979 (L to R) Tami,
Van, Kay, Don, Ann, Bob, and Phil

Bob and Ann 1978

Bob, Ann, and a very young
Maher Maso

Newlyweds,
Bob and Ann—
May 15, 1942, at
Bob's graduation
from Texas A&M

Bob and Wanda
Warren at the
"Night at the
Museum"
event, 2012

Mayors Mike Simpson,
Kathy Seei, and
Bob Warren

Harold Bacchus,
John Weinberg,
and Bob Warren

Bob's 80th birthday, Feb. 1, 2001

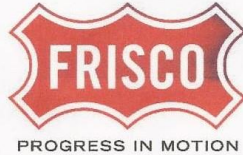
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A BIRTHDAY TO REMEMBER!



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WE DO HEREBY PROCLAIM...



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Born on February 1st, 1921 to Roy and Esther Warren, Robert Mitchell "Bob" Warren is a local living legend, former mayor, author and historian, World War II Veteran, and native Frisco son.

WHEREAS, Bob Warren served as Frisco's Mayor from 1989-1996 and as a member of the City Council 6 years prior to being elected mayor. He is the namesake for Warren Parkway and Warren Sports Complex in Frisco, which were named in honor of his long-standing service to the community.

WHEREAS, Bob Warren's many talents and contributions have left a legacy for generations to come. During his years of dedicated public service, Bob Warren worked tirelessly for Frisco. He was on the City Council who hired George Purefoy as Frisco's first and only City Manager. Under Mayor Warren's leadership, the City Council compiled the first city comprehensive plan, established joint meetings between Council and the Frisco ISD Board of Trustees, and upon voter approval, was one of the first Texas municipalities to dedicate a one-half cent sales tax toward economic development. Mr. Warren served on Frisco's first Economic Development Corporation Board and helped lure Stonebriar Centre, what became the economic engine that helped drive Frisco's economic success; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Warren worked to build partnerships in the community and expand opportunities in education and business. He fought to bring Preston Ridge Collin County Community College campus (now Collin College) to Frisco, and he was a strong advocate of the Frisco Chamber of Commerce.

WHEREAS, Bob Warren is renowned not only for his vision and leadership, but also for his passion for sharing and preserving the history of his beloved hometown. He helped found the Frisco Heritage Association and was involved in planning the Frisco Heritage Center. He's a contributing columnist for Frisco STYLE Magazine, and two books have been published from his articles.

WHEREAS, Bob Warren is known for his humor and wit, but most importantly, for having the utmost integrity and for doing what is fair and right. He is a friend and role model to many. His 5 children, 11 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and 4 great-great grandchildren have reason to be proud.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeff Cheney, Mayor of the City of Frisco, Texas, do hereby bestow **Special Recognition to Bob Warren for his 100th birthday, February 1st, 2021**, and encourage all citizens to join me in extending sincere congratulations and best wishes to Mr. Warren and his family on this momentous occasion.




Jeff Cheney
Mayor

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AN INTERVIEW WITH THE BIRTHDAY BOY...

What are your favorite birthday memory(ies)?

"I don't ever remember as a child... don't remember ever really having a birthday party or birthday presents. I grew up in the depression—grew up so poor I don't remember any birthday presents as a child. I guess I grew up before they invented birthday parties."

"I do remember for my 90th birthday we had a big party at Cantina Laredo in Frisco. That was my favorite birthday. We got all the children together, and a bunch of my friends and we had a big celebration."



Bob's 90th birthday, Feb. 1, 2011
Pictured L to R: Phil, Tami, Don, Van.
Kay was sick and unable to attend.
Photo courtesy of Warren Family

What kind of birthday cake will you have? What's your favorite flavor? With ice cream or no?

"German chocolate cake! And oh yes, with a scoop of vanilla ice cream!"

Looking back, what would you tell your younger self at 25? 50? 75?

"At 25, if he got called into the service, I would say to **NOT** do what the mothers used to tell their children who became pilots. The famous thing they would say was 'son be sure to fly low and slow.' That's the opposite of what I would tell them... that is NOT the safe thing to do! I'd say, 'Son, fly high and fast!'"

"At 50 I would tell myself to do my best at work (he referenced his job at Exxon). To try your best to do your best and advance as fast as you can so you'd have a good retirement."

"At 75, I'd say to eat right, don't smoke, and don't take any drugs so you can enjoy traveling and playing golf."

We talked about how he retired in 1981 and came back to Frisco. He and Ann bought a travel trailer and took the kids to almost all the national parks, which is on my bucket list!

So, what is your advice for a long and happy life?

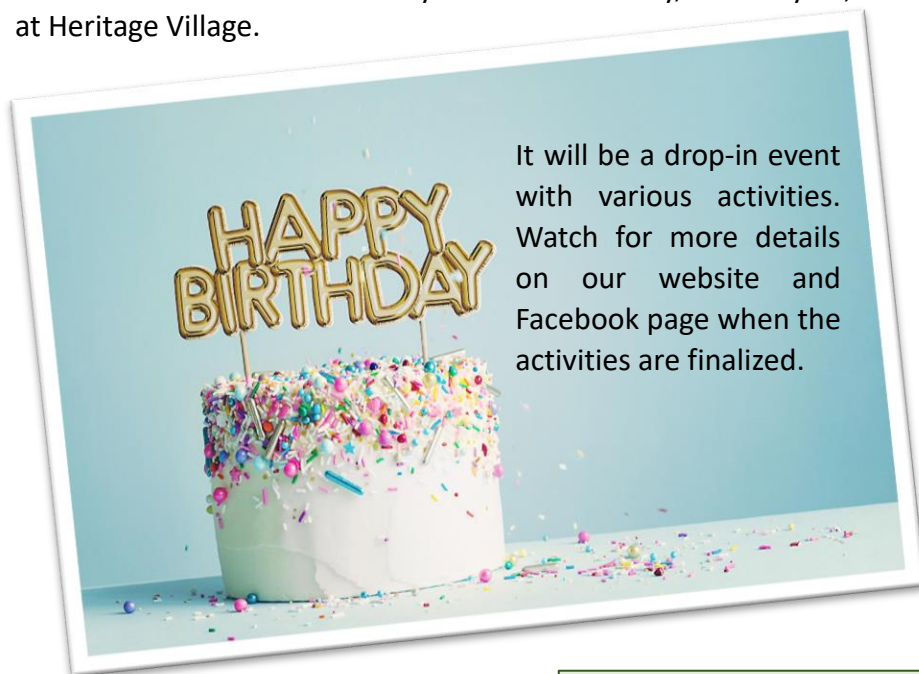
"Eat right, stay healthy, and be sure that you are right with the Lord! And, be ready for whatever and face it full and do your best to succeed."

Great advice indeed my dear friend! Happy Happy Birthday Mayor Bob! We love you!

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES

CELEBRATIONS AND COMING ATTRACTIONS...

Celebrate Frisco's 119th Birthday with us on Sunday, February 21, 2021 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at Heritage Village.



It will be a drop-in event with various activities. Watch for more details on our website and Facebook page when the activities are finalized.

The March issue of *Frisco Heritage Times* will highlight the history of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure in Frisco. What is your favorite memory of playing in Frisco?

From the Heritage Association of Frisco Board of Directors

Be on the lookout for details regarding future events on our Facebook Page and Website. The Board is closely monitoring conditions that may allow us to resume special events—especially outdoor programming.

If you have not paid your annual dues, or you would like to support the work of HAF by becoming a member, please visit our website at www.friscoheritage.org. There are two ways to complete and submit your membership application.

1. Fill out and submit an [online application](#) at www.friscoheritage.org and pay through PayPal.
2. [Download](#), print it, fill it out and mail it along with your check to:

**Heritage Association of Frisco,
PO Box 263
Frisco, TX 75034**

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Heritage Association of Frisco members and friends,

I hope that this finds you doing well. I am so thankful to be a member of the Heritage Association during this tough time in our history. You have been great members supporting our virtual programs and meetings. Hopefully, with vaccines on the horizon, we will be able to resume many of the programs and events that we have done in the past. The HAF Board has been meeting regularly on Zoom to work through this year and thinking about the future.

January has been a busy month for your Board. They have been making plans to celebrate Bob Warren's 100th Birthday. Bob is a Frisco Native, former Mayor of our fair City and a Founding Member of the Heritage Association of Frisco. We planted a Texas Live Oak tree at The Grove to celebrate this special occasion. We chose the Texas Live Oak because it is native to Texas like Bob and it, too, can live 100 years. We presented the tree to Bob at his Birthday Parade on Sunday, 1/31/21. (Board members pictured to right, Brad Sharp, Donna Schmittler, Donna Anderson, and Rita Crowder.)



At that time, we also unveiled and gifted him with a portrait painted by local artist, Zahra Jahanyfard that we had framed.

Photo courtesy of Brad Sharp



Photo courtesy of Heritage Association of Frisco

As always, I would like to encourage you all to renew your membership and help us to continue to research, preserve, and share Frisco's rich heritage. If any of you have a desire to join us on the Board or would be interested in becoming more involved in another way, please let us know. We are always looking for members to help us explore the past and imagine the future together. Please take care and be safe. Best wishes to you all for a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

Historically yours,

Donna Schmittler, President, Heritage Association of Frisco

FRISCO The First 100 Years, Frisco's second comprehensive history book, is available for purchase at the deep discount price of \$20. You can pick one up in the welcome center of the Frisco Heritage Museum, but staff can only accept cash, or a check made payable to *Heritage Association of Frisco*.