

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monica Sedelmeier, Public Information Officer Communications & Marketing Department (254) 750-5636 MonicaS@wacotx.gov waco-texas.com

## WACO FIRE CELBRATES 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**WACO, TEXAS (March 29, 2023)** – The Waco Fire Department is celebrating 150 years of providing dedicated service to Waco residents and surrounding areas. The department will be hosting a family-friendly celebration from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 3 at Fire Station #1, 100 Peach Street.

The free event will feature a fire safe house and agility course for kids, historical displays, and free hotdogs, cake, and cookies. Waco firefighters will be giving out limited-supply challenge coins to residents. Retired firefighters are encouraged to sign the event guestbook and share their experiences with guests.

Posting of the colors will be provided by the Waco Fire Department Honor Guard, and the Waco Firefighters Pipes and Drums Band will provide live music throughout the event. Remarks will be provided by Waco Mayor Dillon Meek, Fire Chief Gregory Summers, and Waco Fire Historian Sean Sutcliffe.

"Our fire stations are extensions of the community," said Fire Chief Gregory Summers. "We're excited to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with our retirees, residents, and visitors."

For a century and a half, the Fire Department has been serving the Waco community responding to fires, water rescues, medical emergencies, hazardous material situations, animal rescues, and so much more! The department was first organized in April 1873 after a devastating fire destroyed most of the buildings on Bridge Street. Since then, the department has grown from one fire station and horse drawn buggies to 14 fire stations and a fleet of fire engines. Since 1873, 11 servant leaders have taken the helm as Waco Fire Chief.

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