

regiments, Confederate troops and non-combatants. With several reconstructed buildings setting the stage, the fort is now used for living-history programs and the annual Intertribal Powwow, which celebrates the 1847 Peace Treaty and is held in conjunction with Founders' Day.

Commemorating more recent military history, the National Museum of the Pacific War recounts the drama of the Pacific Theater in World War II and the life of Fredericksburg native Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz, who served as Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas during World War II.

Operated by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department with support from the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, the museum has expanded beyond its original quarters in the Nimitz family's 1850s-era "Steamboat Hotel." The old hotel building now serves as a testimony to the admiral's career and houses traveling exhibits, but it's only one small part of the Admiral Nimitz Historical Center.

Along the Veterans Walk of Honor behind the hotel, Memorial Walls are covered with plaques inscribed with tributes to those who served during World War II. A gate opens into the Garden of Peace, which the Japanese gave to the American people in the spirit of reconciliation and in honor of Admiral Nimitz.

The Plaza of the Presidents, which honors the 10 American presidents with World War II connections, and the George Bush Gallery, which recreates the sights and sounds of the Pacific War, complete the complex. The museum's final component, the History Walk of the Pacific War, is located two blocks away and includes a restored PT boat and a Quonset hut medical unit in its Pacific War Combat Zone exhibit.

### Texas White House

No trip to Fredericksburg is complete without a visit to the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park in Stonewall, just over 16 miles east along Highway 290. From the Visitor Center a ranger-guided bus tour takes you on an hour-long journey around the LBJ Ranch.

You'll explore the reconstructed house where the future president was born and glimpse the one-room schoolhouse he attended briefly as a 4-year-old. You'll ride past the rambling Texas White House where he relaxed during his presidency, and visit the family burial ground where he lies beneath an umbrella of live oak trees. And, since this is still a

working ranch, you might spot some of the registered Hereford cattle, descended from Johnson's own herd.

On your way back to Fredericksburg, stop off at Wildseed Farms Market Center, the country's largest working wildflower farm. Purchase plants or seeds to start your own wildflower garden, or shop in the big barn-like store for a variety of gifts including outdoor items, wines and delicious flavored honey butters.

Whenever you visit, you're sure to find much to experience and enjoy. In spring you'll see wildflowers and blossoming peach trees. From May until at least mid-August you can buy the fruit from those trees at roadside stands. Between June and October you can watch over a million Mexican free-tailed bats depart from a nearby abandoned railroad tunnel on their nightly foraging expeditions.

### Year-round Special Events

The National Museum of the Pacific War offers living history programs,



and in addition to Founders' Day, Fredericksburg celebrates its German heritage with such events as the Easter Fires Pageant, Oktoberfest and "Weinachten" (Christmas market and festival).

Fredericksburg is a shoppers' paradise with items ranging from locally produced foods and wines to western-themed gifts to antiques. And, while you can find Tex-Mex dishes, health food and the

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