

BRANIFF FLIGHT 352 DAWSON TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER APPROVED - On Friday, January 25, 2019, Braniff Airways Foundation was notified by the Texas Historical Commission via email that the Foundation's application for the placement of a Texas Historical Marker to honor the memory of Braniff International Flight 352 at Dawson, Texas, was approved. This is the first approval for the Foundation for a Texas Historical Marker, which is part of the Braniff Trail Historical Plaque Project.

Braniff International Flight 352 was lost near Dawson, Texas, on May 3, 1968. At the time, it was the Texas' worst plane accident until August 2, 1985, when Delta Airlines Flight 191 was lost at Dallas/Ft. Worth International Airport. Both accidents were the result of flight into turbulent severe thunderstorm activity. The marker will mark the spot where Flight 352 was lost and honor the passengers, their families, the employees of Braniff Airways and the citizens of Dawson and the surrounding areas as well as the first responders.

On May 3, 2018, the 50th Anniversary of the loss of Flight 352, a special day of historical and memorial remembrance was conducted by Braniff Airways Foundation, the Lions Club of Dawson and the Dawson Independent School District and the City of Dawson. Over 600 people were in attendance for the day-long event that included a special ceremony with a historical overview of the accident followed by the presentation of two Braniff Trail Historical Plaques. The ceremony was closed with a salute to each passenger aboard Flight 352.

The day began with a special BBQ luncheon, which was hosted by the Lions Club of Dawson. The Lions Club was extremely helpful in organizing the BBQ and conducting the self-driving automobile tour of the accident site and the associated sites in downtown Dawson. The day was ended with a special flag raising at the exact moment the aircraft was lost with weather at the time as it was 50 years earlier. At flag raising, the Lions Club informed Braniff Airways Foundation that they would donate the funds to pay for the Flight 352 Texas Historical Marker, which was \$1875.00 USD. Braniff Airways Foundation provided funding for the \$100 USD application fee and both Braniff Trail Historical Plaques that were placed in the Dawson City Hall annex.

The Lions Club presented the Foundation with a check for the marker on Friday, February 1, 2019. A simple invoice was filled in and mailed along with the Lions Club check to the Texas Historical Commission. Once the check is received, then the installation of the plaque will be scheduled. This could take up to a year to complete but once the date is known, invitations will be sent out for a placement and dedication ceremony.

Braniff Airways Foundation thanks everyone that has made this marker possible. This is truly a historic moment in the history of Braniff Airways, the City of Dawson, the Dawson Independent School District, which graciously opened up their school to us for an entire day and helped in so many ways, and the passengers, families and the citizens of Dawson and surrounding areas and the first responders that were touched by the loss of Braniff International Flights 352.

On September 29, 2019, Braniff Airways Foundation will host a special plaque placement ceremony to honor the 60th Anniversary of the loss of Braniff International Airways Flight 542 near Buffalo, Texas. As plans are formulated for this very special event they will be published on all of the Foundation's social media sites and email lists.

Braniff Airways Foundation will begin applying for one or more Texas Historical Markers each year. The next marker applications for sites in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Additional applications will be placed for sites in Houston, Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Lubbock, Wichita Falls, Amarillo and Brownsville, Texas.

Braniff Airways Foundation

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Photo 1: Photographer Unknown

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Braniff Flying Colors Collection

