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Specialty plate preserves Texas history

AUSTIN – Symbols of Texas' history as an independent country are displayed on a new specialty license plate now available to the public. This month, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and local county tax assessor-collector's offices are featuring the Native Texan plate.

"Texas pride is rooted in our unique history, and the Native Texan license plate generates funds that help preserve historic sites like those that are featured in the design of the plate," said Jerry Dike, Vehicle Titles and Registration division director.

The Native Texan specialty plate displays the Alamo and San Jacinto monument with the Texas flag in the background. The words "Native Texan" run along the bottom of the plate.

The Native Texan license plate is available to motorists for a $30 annual fee, plus $40 if personalized, in addition to regular vehicle registration fees. Of the $30 annual fee for the Native Texan specialty plate, $22 is appropriated to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas for programs that preserve Texas historic sites or teach Texas history.

Applications for the Native Texan specialty plate are available at county tax offices, on TxDOT's web site (www.dot.state.tx.us), by calling the TxDOT Help Desk at (512) 465-7611, or TxDOT's Fax-On-Demand forms line at (888) 232-7033. Customers requesting orders for specialty license plates through the fax service should enter the code 0999 to receive the form for the license plate they are ordering.

TxDOT started its specialty license plate program in 1965. Today, there is a wide variety of different plate designs, many of them benefiting a particular group, organization, college or university. Since 1994, more than $10 million has been raised for sponsoring organizations, colleges or universities.

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For more information, call Darah Waldrip in TxDOT Vehicle Titles and Registration Division, (512) 302-2076. For a view of the plate and ordering information go to www.dot.state.tx.us/vtr/spplates/allplates.htm.