Bernie Sargent Leaves Big Boots to Fill in El Paso

Before the couple packed their boxes, the El Paso ABC affiliate interviewed Bernie—along with his wife, Jeanne R. Blocker—to discuss their love of history through a planned podcast called “El Paso, TX: On the Border.” In their conversation, the Sargents talked about their years living in El Paso, where they raised their family and became involved in the community. They will continue their work as historians, focusing on Texas maps, early currency, and beautiful accompanying artwork. Bernie and Jeanne have been active participants in Texas preservation efforts, including campaigns to save historic buildings and community spaces. They have also been involved in promoting the history of El Paso, especially the city’s blended culture and together gained a reputation as stalwart promoters of the city’s history and timely preservation efforts.

The Sargents’ work has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including Bernie being named a Texas Historical Commission citizens commissioner and Jeanne being named a Texas Historical Commission scholar director. In South Texas, the Sargents have focused on Texas maps, early currency, and beautiful accompanying artwork. They have been active participants in Texas preservation efforts, including campaigns to save historic buildings and community spaces. They have also been involved in promoting the history of El Paso, especially the city’s blended culture and together gained a reputation as stalwart promoters of the city’s history and timely preservation efforts.

In 2020, the Sargents were awarded the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Community Leadership Award for their work in El Paso. The award recognizes leaders who have made significant contributions to the preservation of historic places and who have demonstrated a commitment to the principles of the organization.

Each volume of the award-winning Texas Historical Foundation quarterly newsletter, Texas Heritage, is sent to the foundation’s 50,000+ members. If you or your family wants to create a lasting legacy to a departed loved one—or a living gift to someone you love—a gift of membership is a wonderful way to honor a special person.

To receive the latest news and events from Texas Historical Foundation, subscribe to our email list. If that article is of interest, we encourage you to visit our website, where you can find a wealth of resources and information about historic preservation in Texas. If you or your family wants to create a lasting legacy to a departed loved one—or a living gift to someone you love—a gift of membership is a wonderful way to honor a special person.