The federal agency purchased the Hunter family's property, and the Guadalupe Mountains, offered 5,632 acres in McKittrick Canyon to the National Park Service (NPS). The survey will be carried out by veterans, part of the American Veterans Archaeological Recovery (AVAR)’s unique “Rehabilitation Archaeology Program.” The survey will focus on determining the history of the slave quarters located on Museum grounds to their original Antebellum appearance and will indicate that free slaves played a greater role in the history of the historic residence than previously thought. The AVAR survey is funded by the Rosenberg Railroad Museum Foundation and will ultimately allow public interior access to one of the few remaining 19th century lighthouses in Texas.

The prestigious award is being presented in 2023 to the Cavender family, founders of Cavender’s, an iconic Texas company with an important contribution to preserving the Lone Star State’s history and culture. The Texas Historical Foundation Star of Texas Award honors individuals or businesses for their exceptional contributions towards preserving the Lone Star State’s history and culture. The Cavender family has been laborers in this work…"