



We are excited that our **German-Texan Heritage Society** will be the honoree at the **49<sup>th</sup> Annual German Pioneer Ball**, to be held **Saturday evening, October 8**, at the same Irving hotel as our Annual Meeting. GTHS is being honored for its continued success in carrying out its mission to promote the awareness and preservation of the German cultural heritage in Texas.

The Pioneer Ball is sponsored by the Dallas-based nonprofit **Texas German Day Council**, which has as its purpose to acknowledge the accomplishments of the early German settlers in Texas, to acclaim the contributions of all Texans of German ancestry, and to encourage American-German cultural exchange and create a better understanding between the two peoples on a non-political basis. The Council's membership is made up of representatives from area German-American organizations.

The Council was founded in 1963 to renew a Texas custom known to exist in Houston as far back as 1889, that of celebrating **German Day** as an annual event, to pay tribute to the heroic pioneers of German descent. An 1893 Dallas newspaper account tells of Dallas residents celebrating German Day to mark the anniversary of the October 6, 1683 landing of the first group of German colonists in the New World, in Philadelphia.

In 1963, German Day became officially recognized as an annual event in Texas, with a proclamation signed by the Governor each year to commemorate the day. The date is always in October, close to the historic date of October 6. The Pioneer Ball has been held annually since 1963 to celebrate German Day in Texas. Proceeds from the ball go to support the Goethe Center and School.

Each year the Texas German Day Council chooses an honoree for the Ball in accordance with the Council's mission. Past honorees have included Texas-German sister city partnerships, states and cities in Germany (often represented at the Ball by cultural groups from the state or city), Americans of German descent, including Admiral Chester Nimitz and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, as well as towns in Texas with German heritage such as Schulenburg, Boerne and Muenster.

We hope you'll decide to attend the Pioneer Ball on October 8 and take part in this German heritage event honoring GTHS. On our Annual Meeting registration form, you'll find a place to include your request for Pioneer Ball tickets. GTHS members, as honorees, will pay the discounted price of \$62.50 per person. A cash bar reception begins at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7 p.m., with dinner music provided by the Dallas *Frohsinn Kapelle* (with several GTHS members!) and dance music by the Dynamic Swing Machine. Attire is black-tie optional.

**Please join the German-Texan Heritage Society as we celebrate!**