

most popular and historic venues in the city. In many ways, the reopening of the Plaza Theater in 2007 triggered the revitalization of Downtown.

In 1989, MacGuire and her husband, both pilots, established the War Eagles Air Museum in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, in order to share their love of aviation with the borderlands community and house their collection of vintage planes. The nonprofit museum continues to grow and attracts visitors from around the world.

Betty Moor MacGuire, recipient of El Paso Inc.'s Community Spirit Award in 2016, has spent the last six decades creating a better future for children in and improving the quality of life in El Paso. She is highly deserving of being inducted into the El Paso County Historical Society's Hall of Honor.

John Peak

2019 Hall of Honor Inductee

John William Peak was born on November 21, 1871 in Vera, Illinois, to Alexander Peak and Mary Doyle. Peak grew up in Illinois, learning embalming and funeral services and working as an undertaker.

In the early 1910s, at the request of the United States Government, Peak was transferred to El Paso, Texas, along with one of his younger sisters, Grace Edith Peak, to provide burial services along the U.S-Mexico border. In 1910 a major armed struggle had begun in Mexico with an uprising led by Francisco Madero against longtime autocrat Porfirio Diaz, and the U.S. Army realized that it would potentially need such services given the number of deceased. After Pancho Villa raided Columbus, New Mexico in 1916, Peak was engaged by the US Government to bury the Americans who had been killed.

At the conclusion of the Mexican Revolution, John Peak elected to stay in El Paso and established Peak Undertaking. In 1915, the Peak Undertaking Company purchased the first motor-driven ambulance in El Paso County. In 1919, Mr. Peak joined with Mr. Barry Hagedon to build the new Peak - Hagedon Funeral Establishment at 320 Montana Avenue. After working with John Peak for 23 years, Barry Hagedon bought



Password

his share in the funeral home in 1942, and then became partners with Russell Harding and later James Orr.

Before that, however, the Peak - Hagedon Funeral Home did much to bring the "Golden Age of Radio" to America and history lessons to El Paso by becoming the first sponsors of the "Frontier Fighters" radio show on KTSM. Beginning on January 26, 1938, "Frontier Fighters" was aired for 39 weeks and recounted historical moments or figures from the history of the American Frontier from the 1600s to the 1800s.

John W. Peak and his sister Grace were munificent philanthropists contributing to numerous El Paso charities. John Peak was active with the El Maida Shriners in El Paso in the organization's early years and, in 1926, was named its Potentate. John and Grace were two of the donors who helped the El Paso Y.W.C.A. to open its 52-bed residence for young women. Upon their deaths in 1950 and 1954, both John and Grace left the bulk of their estates to Texas Western College (now The University of Texas at El Paso), the First Christian Church, and other charitable organizations.