

75th Anniversary 1949 - 2024



Merci, Texas:

A Story of Generosity and Gratitude

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Merci Train on American soil. After World War II, Americans generously sent millions of dollars in food and other supplies for the citizens of Western Europe. In gratitude, the people of France sent more than 52,000 gifts inside railroad boxcars that became known as the Merci Train. The 49 railcars arrived on the freighter Magellan in New York Harbor in February 1949. One boxcar was given to each of the 48 states at that time with the 49th car shared by the people of the District of Columbia and the Hawaiian territory.

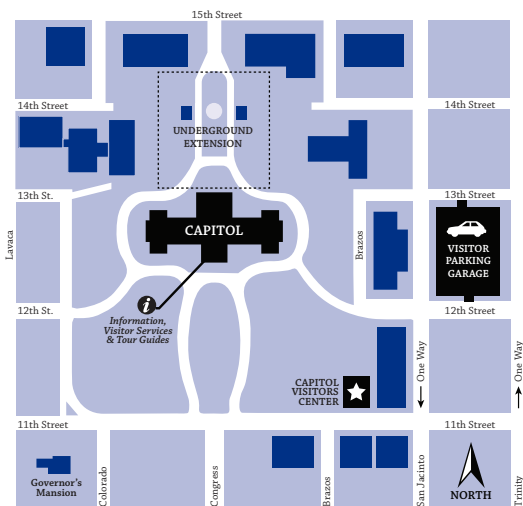
A version of this display was first shown at the Capitol Visitors Center in 2017. Thousands of visitors had the opportunity to learn about the Merci Train and the priceless treasures that were sent to Texas. This special commemorative exhibition includes original artifacts from the train like artwork, toys, medals and other objects. Opening day festivities in 2017 included the chance to see the restored Texas boxcar outside the Visitors Center on 12th and Brazos Streets.

The State Preservation Board wishes to thank The Society of Forty Men & Eight Horses Grande Voiture du Texas and The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin for their generous assistance with this special anniversary exhibition. Today the original boxcar that was sent to Texas as part of the Merci Train is on display at the Texas Military Forces Museum in Austin.



FREE ADMISSION

Located in the historic Texas General Land Office Building (built 1856 - 1857), the Capitol Visitors Center features interactive exhibits and films about Capitol and Texas history, free travel information and an outstanding Gift Shop. The Visitors Center is open daily and admission is FREE.



OPEN:

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday - Sunday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

CLOSED:

Easter Sunday



Stewards of Texas History



TEXAS CAPITOL VISITORS CENTER

CVC Info Desk

512.305.8400

Texas Travel Desk

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