
FIRST HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION HELD AT DDRT

The first Hispanic Heritage Day Celebration was held at Defense Distribution Depot Red River (DDRT) Wednesday, September 27.

The event started at 7 a.m. with a chili cook-off. Five teams participated. The chili was cooked outside the employees' entrance of the Distribution Operations Center (DOC) building at DDRT. At noon, LTC Randall Bockenstedt, DDRT Commander; Kirk Zachry, Jr., DDRT Deputy Commander; and Annette Holder, Secretary to the DDRT Commander, acted as the judging team.

The chili cook-off team taking top honors was—Chilly Willy and The Chillin Rellenos—made up of Willie Houff, Annette Barling, Robin Cartwright and Steve Dawson.

Other teams that participated included: Red Hot Chili Peppers—Made up of Tommy McDonald, Judy Collins, Moses Hudson and Rudy Rodriguez Blazing B-Bs—made up of Ricky Brewer, James Barton, Tom Cooper and Onis Wilson Us and Them—made up of Rick Sanchez, Bobby Huddleston, David Clark and Adam Colon Bad Boys and Girls—made up of Johnny Moore, Karen Phelps, Cecilia Hopkins and Dennis Emanuel.

At 1 p.m. the Heritage Celebration began with the introductions and opening remarks. This was followed by a reception, where employees and guests tasted the chili from the cook-off and other foods provided by local restaurants in Texarkana.

Ms. Mary Lou Dundee, a teacher in the Liberty Eylau Independent School District, was the guest speaker for the program. Her topic for the program was—*Children: Our Hope for the Future*.

Ms. Dundee stressed that we all must do what we can do to make our children feel special.



Ms. Mary Lou Dundee, Guest Speaker.

“Encourage them to do their best,” she said. She pointed out that all children need praise and encouragement. “Do things with your children, make it special,” she explained. “We must teach our children respect—but teachers must respect the child.” Ms. Dundee explained that the care and effort parents give to their children will help them become ‘whole’ productive adults in the future. “And remember honesty builds good character,” she explained.

Introductions for the program were made by George Henley, a DDRT employee who works in the Packing and Shipping Division. The opening remarks were given by LTC Bockenstedt. Songs were sung by the First Hispanic Baptist Church Adult Choir.

Hispanic Program Coordinators were George Hensley and Alex Solis. Diversity Committee planners included: Basilene Henson, Brenda Watson, Bill Bourne, Doris Green, Marilyn Hughes, Lucille Williams, Johnny Edwards, Jerry Green, Jo Linda Warren and James Keeton.

Sponsors of the celebration included Panchos, Pena’s, Tamolly’s, Pepsi and Coca-Cola.



First Hispanic Baptist Church Adult Choir.

Ms. Dundee was born in Santa Cruz, New Mexico. She served as a Spanish interpreter on summer medical missions to Guatemala. She has a BS degree from Ouchita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, AR, in Spanish, English and French. Ms. Dundee taught English, Spanish, French, German and Latin for over 20 years at Westlawn School in Texarkana, TX. She is currently teaching Spanish at Liberty Eylau High School in Texarkana. She also serves as an interpreter for two local judges in the Texarkana area.