

Deeds

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the first time, Iraqis have freely voted and participated in the formation of a democratic, constitutionally-based government," said Ritter. "People who at the beginning of this year wanted nothing to do with the government demanded their right to vote and have their voices heard. Regardless of how they voted, the voices of the Iraqi people, not an overbearing government, finally resonate."

"It's nice to see a democracy being built in a country," Navarro said. "Twenty years from now, I can say that I helped with that."

In regard to their personal lives, the Soldiers said they are happy to be home again. When Navarro left a year ago he was leaving behind a family that included a 6-month-old son. "It was kind of hard when I got home, he's 18 months old now and he really doesn't know who I am," said Navarro. "For the last year I saw him growing up in pictures. Now I get to be with him as he grows up."

Ritter added he was happy with the performance the troops during their time in Iraq. "They have Soldiered hard and dealt with adversity and long hours while never letting the standard fall. They have represented the Corps and the 108th ADA Brigade with distinction and honor while serving during this deployment."

Volunteering becomes family affair

CATRINA FRANCIS

Monitor Staff

Belle Bush received the Volunteer of the Quarter award Jan. 19 for her work at Old Fort Bliss.

Volunteering has become a family affair for the Bush family. Belle, along with sister Renee and brother Will, volunteer with the Children's Bi-Cultural Living History Program, an educational program for children in the El Paso community.

Will is responsible for explaining the life of a Soldier in 1857, and Renee serves as the bell ringer.

Lt. Col. Sean Lewis, garrison executive officer, said it was quite an honor to present the award to Belle. He also said, at 12 years old, she was the youngest to receive this recognition.

"Words that come to my mind are 'selfless,' 'giving,' and of course absolutely 'amazing,'" said Lewis.

Lewis also said Belle is a volunteer who is always eager to assist wherever she is needed and always goes the extra mile.

"Let the selfless deeds of this young lady serve as an example to all of us. It's volunteers like Belle Bush that make this world a better place," said Lewis.

Lauri-Anne Disinger, director of education, at CBLHP, said Belle seeks out the necessary in every situation and sets forth to accomplish the results. After meeting Belle, Disinger



SGT. SARA WOOD

(far left) Tephanie Hopper, looks on as Army Community Service volunteer program coordinator, Lt. Col. Sean Lewis congratulates Belle Bush on receiving the Volunteer of the Quarter Award.

said she wished there were more youth volunteers at Old Fort Bliss.

"Belle is a volunteer who donates more of her personal time to the behind-the-scenes activities. Belle is a mentor, someone to be admired and emulated. Everyone is in awe of Belle," said Disinger.

Belle said she volunteers her time to make Old Fort Bliss a better place because it looked like it would be fun. She helps other children learn about history and explains the differ-

ent period rooms and how life was in 1857.

"I wanted to volunteer my time instead of playing with friends and watching TV," said Belle.

Volunteering and teaching others about history may seem odd because Belle is so young, but she said it has intrigued her.

"Put down the remote from the TV and come out and volunteer at Old Fort Bliss ... [it] will make your life better," said Belle.

USASMA hosts annual MLK observance

STAFF SGT. KRISHNA M. GAMBLE

The NCO Journal

Hundreds packed the East Auditorium of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy during the annual Fort Bliss Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observance Jan. 18 at Biggs Army Airfield. Sponsored by USASMA Class 56, the observance reflected on the injustices King spoke out against.

"A great portion of Dr. King's life



PHOTOS BY SPC. JOSEPH EDMONSON

Guest speaker and former Sgt. Maj. Of the Army Gene McKinney address an audience of more than 500 at the annual Fort Bliss Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observance Jan. 18 at Biggs Army Airfield.

was spent to the service of all mankind," said Sgt. Maj. Troy Foster, Class 56 student and master of ceremony. "His name, along with that of Mother Theresa and Mahatma Gandhi, is synonymous with morality."

The observance began with Class 56 members reenacting the arrest of Rosa Parks Dec. 1, 1955 for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a city bus in Montgomery, Ala. This single act of nonviolent resistance sparked an 11-month struggle to desegregate the city's buses under the leadership of King who thought that "if we could get 60 percent cooperation, the protest would be a success." Following an excerpt reading of King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech, the USASMA choir sang two songs entitled "Take me Back" and "Trouble in My Way."

Guest speaker for the event was former Sgt. Maj. of the Army Gene McKinney, the tenth sergeant major of the Army, who encouraged those in attendance to never quit. He said King came into prominence in this country at the perfect time and "did not target a particular race or group of people, but he targeted the system and the injustices that minorities have endured from 1600 to 1955 and even today in some cases."

"The civil rights movement did not start in 1955, it started back in the 1600s," McKinney said as he ended his remarks by reciting the poem entitled "Don't Quit" by an unknown



SPC. JOSEPH EDMONSON

Students from USASMA Class 56 reenact Rosa Parks' Dec. 1, 1955, arrest for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a city bus in Montgomery, Ala., during the annual Fort Bliss Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observance.

author. "When things go wrong as they sometimes will, when the road you're trudging seems all up hill ... when care is pressing you down a bit, rest, if you must, but don't you quit ... Success is failure turned inside out - the silver tint of the clouds of doubt ... So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit -It's when things seem worst that you must not quit."

McKinney, the first African-American to hold the Army's highest enlisted position, was sworn in July 1, 1995, and served until October 1997.

Correction

The Jan. 12 *Monitor* listed incorrect information for the Interservice Physician Assistant Program and the Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program briefing being held Friday. The correct location is WBAMC's clinical assembly room located on the first floor by the credit union from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The briefing will also be held on post at Bldg. 2 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.