



American Heritage Week 2000

A glimpse of the past...visions of the future



By Eric Raub

It is time again to celebrate unity and diversity during American Heritage Week, June 26-30. The annual celebration continues the effort to include all members of "Team NASA" in the festivities including civil service employees, our aerospace partners, families and friends. The theme of American Heritage Week is, appropriately enough for "Team NASA," "A Glimpse of the Past... Visions of the Future!"

American Heritage Week was started seven years ago by the Equal Opportunity Programs Office as an effort to celebrate the uniqueness of all cultures at the same time. Rather than isolating specific groups and recognizing them individually, the event was designed to simultaneously recognize and celebrate everyone's differences and the unity they provide for "Team NASA." In this way, everyone can celebrate diversity together and become more familiar with the various groups as well as with individuals in the "Team NASA" community.

"American Heritage Week turns the spotlight on the diverse heritage of the entire team," said Equal Opportunity Programs Director Estella Hernandez Gillette, "while at the same time we celebrate the unity, partnership, and teamwork that keep the organization working and learning together for the common goal."

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the daily multicultural entertainment events from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Bldg. 3 cafeteria. There is no charge for any of the wonderful opportunities to learn about and celebrate various cultures.

Scheduled to appear are: The Boyz, the Star-Spangled Brass Group, the Chorus Sine Nomine, the Ball High Ballet Folklorico, and the JSC Town Criers.

The event is hosted by JSC; however, for American Heritage Week to be a complete success, all members of "Team NASA" throughout the Clear Lake area are encouraged to attend to better learn about the diversity of the entire organization. Employees are also encouraged to bring their family members, especially for the Grand Finale, which will have plenty of food, beverages, and fun for everyone.

The daylong Grand Finale celebration on June 30 begins with a parade at 1:30 p.m. that will depart from the front of Bldg. 1 and will include decorated vehicles, horses, and riders. The entire caravan will enjoy a send-off by the Forest Brook High School Marching Band. The Clear Lake High School Honor Guard will open the ceremony at the Gilruth with the presentation of colors. Ashley Toman, 8, will sing the National Anthem during the opening ceremonies, which also will include a welcome from JSC Director George W. S. Abbey.

The entertainment continues from 3:30-7 p.m. with performances by: Clan Ceili, Conjunto Chileno de Houston; Abraham's Tree; Ashley Toman; an Egyptian Folklore group; Verstyle; and LS4. Astronauts will be present to sign autographs, and face painting will be available for children (and the young at heart). Visions of the past will be the Gilruth Ballroom with a "country fair" theme, and a glimpses of the future will be seen in the International Space Station trailers which will be available for touring. As in past years, Houston Highlanders Bagpipes will close the event. ■

Weeklong Activities

11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m in Bldg. 3 Monday – Thursday, June 26-29

Join us in the JSC Bldg. 3 cafeteria 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for daily, multicultural performances

Grand Finale

Friday, June 30, 2000

- 12:30 p.m. The Forest Brook High School Marching Band will perform behind Bldg. 1
- 1:30 p.m. Parade departs, front of Bldg. 1, travel on-site JSC
- 3:30 p.m. Grand Finale at the JSC Gilruth Center, including performers, astronaut autographs, face painters, refreshments, and a tour of the International Space Station trailers

For further information call Patricia Burke at 281-483-0606.

TEAM NASA

You and your organization are cordially invited to participate in the annual celebration of the many heritages represented by our Team NASA workforce.

