

Alice Douse: Killeen's Black History

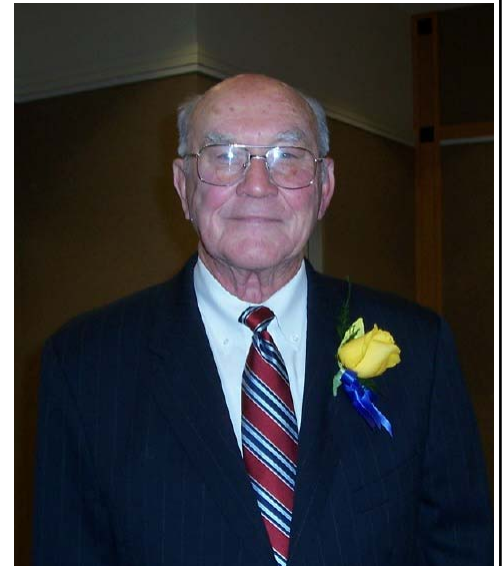
Local historian and former elementary principal, Alice Douse, educated the members of the Exchange Club of Killeen regarding Killeen's Black History. Killeen was an all white community until the Army came to the area in 1942. The 761st Tank Battalion, an all black tanker unit was stationed at Fort Hood during WWII. They were known at the Black Panthers. The unit was cited for having served 183 days straight on the front lines and is credited with saving many lives in a rescue during the Battle of the Bulge in Germany. After the war, blacks continued to be stationed at Fort Hood but did not live in the Killeen community nor did they attend Killeen schools. The nearest black high school was in Belton and local students were bussed to Belton to attend. Even black civilian employees were allowed to live on Fort Hood because of the unavailability of housing for them in the community. One of the first recorded families in the area was the family of Richard Mays. Although he has passed, his descendants still reside in the area. One of his sons (also named Richard Mays) is a local teacher. The Killeen school district was unified with the Fort Hood school district. This action led the way

Gerald Skidmore receives highest honor

Over 125 people attended our 53rd Annual Golden Deeds Awards Banquet that was held on February 21st at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center.

Club members honored Gerald Skidmore for his truly "Golden Deeds". Gerald has been a resident of the area since 1955 and according to his nomination he is the very embodiment of civic service. Since he made Central Texas his home he has also made the residents of Central Texas his extended family.

"There are not words enough to describe the overwhelming impact this truly gentle man has had on this place and its people. Gerald "Skid"



Skidmore has become a major part of our community's life force, and his accomplishments are the measure of the growth and development of Central Texas. He is the person we all want to be, and we are proud to nominate him for this prestigious award". These

Dates To Remember.....

Mar 30—Election of Club Officers for 2009-2010 club year

APRIL 6TH—POLITICAL FORUM – KISD TRUSTEES & HH Council

APRIL 6th—Deadline for YOY & ACE Scholarship Applications

April 13th - MEET AT KLN SENIOR CTR (CELEBRATE CLUB'S 54th Birthday

April 18th—Pass out cap information & balloons at Wal-mart from 20 to 23

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE MONTH

◆ *Calendar of Events*

Who's In Charge?

- March 2009** (CELEBRATE EXCHANGE'S NATIONAL BIRTHDAY)
- 2ND STUDENT 2 STUDENT MCEC PROGRAM
- 9TH TO D-DAY AND BACK – BOB BEARDEN (1974 GOLDEN DEEDS RECIPIENT)
- 16TH POLITICAL FORUM CITY OF KILLEEN CITY COUNCIL
- 23RD YOUTH OF THE QUARTER (BOARD MEETING AT 1 PM)
- 30TH ELECTION OF 2009-2010 CLUB OFFICERS, BUSINESS MEETING

are the concluding words written by Jack Wade on the nomination form.

During the program, emcee John Fisher (Bell County Commissioner, Precinct 4) read quotes from members of the community. He read one from Dave Miller – he jokes that Skid retired in 1997 but they see him around the Killeen Daily Herald more now. He said that “Skid is always in there doing research for MCEC, the Chamber of Commerce or some other organization that he is involved with”. He further stated that Skid always asks if he can use library, and I always tell him that it is his library”. He is responsible for much of its contents and they



OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2008-2009

- President.....Maureen Jouett
- President-Elect.....Dick Young
- Secretary.....Paul Brice
- Treasurer.....Paul Liu
- VP/Bingo Chair.....Don Sutton
- Scrapbook.....Melissa Jouett
- Photographer.....Paul Liu
- Web Master.....Abdul Subhani
- Americanism.....David Garvin
- Child Abuse Prevention.....
-Dick and Teresa Young
- Community SvcKathy Jones
- Fellowship/Inter-Club/Public Relations/Bulletin.....Kathy Jones
- Membership.....Sherry Hoffpauir

consider him their “institutional library”. He is always coming in and letting them know important things that are going on in the community. Dave also said that “as a boss, he was extremely fair, always consistent and never showing favoritism”.

Right: Past Golden Deeds honoree, Mrs. Alice Douse, addresses the members of the club regarding Killeen’s Black History. We have come a long way and still have far to go.



Biblical Exchange



Paul counsels: Stand fast in the faith; let all things be done with charity.



- Jerry D Dugger 3-3
- Robin Crouse 3-9
- Dan Carter 3-9
- Richard Jouett 3-19
- John Fisher 3-23
- March Club Anniversaries**
- Jim Garvin 3-1-72
- Rev.(Dr) D. Michael Jones 3-29-99
- Robert Muller 3-17-08
- Daniel Reed 3-9-08



toward integration of the Killeen school system in the mid 1950’s Mother Mildred (Anderson) DeBose was the first black graduate from the Killeen school district. Mrs. Douse spends a lot of time researching our Black History and is currently in the process of recording this history for the permanent records of Killeen.