

NEWS RELEASE

118th Nicodemus, Kansas - Emancipation Celebration "Home Coming"

Theme: "Unity in the Community"
July 26, 27, 28, 1996

On July 26-28th, 1996 Nicodemus will celebrate their 118th Emancipation Celebration "Home Coming". On May 2, 1996 the Senate passed the Nicodemus Bill for National Site (Park) Designation and the community is now waiting to hear if the Bill has passed in the House. They are hoping that the House will pass the Bill before their big celebration at the end of July, so that they can celebrate its passing. The theme of this year's celebration is "Unity in the Community". Community is defined as the African American community, the community of descendants nationally, the Graham County community, and the Nicodemus community. A focus on the descendants and their connection with Nicodemus will be highlighted during the program, with descendants speaking from all over the U.S..

Friday, 'The Gathering' will begin a 3:00 when most people begin arrive. This will be an attempt to register descendants and participates from all over the nation. This will be repeated starting at 10:00 on Saturday. People that are related and or have ties to Nicodemus are encourage to come and register for the compilation of a descendants rooster.

The parade that starts at 11:00 on Saturday will feature the Nicodemus Buffalo Soldiers Association and their counterparts Buffalo Soldiers of the American West from Denver, and other cavalry re-enactors from varoius parts of Kansas and the U.S. They will present an 1870's military cavalry exhibition, to include drills, maneuvers, history and a special tribute to the Civil War veterans and Buffalo Soldiers of Nicodemus. The annual descendants fashion/talent show at 2:00 on Saturday, will feature clothing from the historic 1880's through to the 1990s. The Nicodemus Baptist Church will host their annual Gospel music and talent extravaganza on Saturday night starting a 7:00. Music for the dance on Friday and Saturday nights will be provided by Junction City DJ, Richie Rich and for the older folks jazz and blues will be provided by Nicodemus residents Charlesetta Bates and Bertha Carter on Friday and Saturday by the 'Jimmie Lewin and King Tones' from Stockton, Kansas.

Food and craft vendors will be available.

**For more information contact:
Kim Thomas, Homecoming Chairman (913) 425-7004**