

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

## NICODEMUS NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

### 121st Annual Nicodemus Emancipation Celebration

**HOMECOMING - JULY 30, 31, & AUGUST 1, 1999**

*"Preserving our Past & Taking Nicodemus into the next Millennium"*

The 1999 Nicodemus Emancipation Celebration - Homecoming Committee will be hosting their 121st Celebration! This year's theme reflects the priority for the community as it moves towards the end of this millennium and into the next. Last years dedication of Nicodemus as a National Historic Site during our 120th Emancipation Celebration, drew a couple of thousand descendants, friends and supporters. We are anticipating close to the same number of participants this year. We will begin activities on Friday, July 30, at noon, opening for registration and ticket sells. We are asking all who come, to support the continued efforts of this event, by registering and buy their ticket/button for the event.

Starting at 9:00 on Friday, music for the 'older' crowd will be provided by Wo Wo - He's back by demand! He will take you back to the 60's, 70's and 80's with "Oldies but Goodies". Sing along, tap your foot or get up and dance on the platform adjacent to our Township Hall. Inside the Hall and for the youth and young adults, DJ Troy Chapman of Denver will be providing all the hip hop and rap you can listen and dance to. Both Wo Wo and Troy will be providing music Friday and Saturday nights. Wo Wo will provide additional music for the afternoon on Saturday. Saturday activities will kick off with our annual parade at 11:00AM, hosting a grand performance by the Nicodemus Buffalo Soldiers Association re-enactment troop. Following the parade at noon, the National Park Service is sponsoring Dr. Boyer of Kansas State University as guest speaker for the afternoon program. He will talk about the contribution of African Americans to the history of Kansas. A descendants fashion show will be hosted at 2:00 and at 5:00 an old fashion softball game will be held in the Nicodemus baseball diamond. A descendants team will be organized to play against a Hays team. Those who wish to hear some spirited gospel music are encouraged to join in the Gospel Extravaganza at 7:00 Saturday evening at the Nicodemus First Baptist Church. The National Park Service will sponsor an exhibit on Nicodemus for those who wish to get a bit of history and see historic photos.

Sunday services will be held at 10:00AM at the Nicodemus First Baptist Church with visiting minister, Rev. Lorenzo Steward and congregation from Peaceful Rest church of Denver, Colorado. A free community dinner will be serve following church services, at the Township Hall. Everyone welcome to attend. Donations accepted.

There will be a host of food, crafts, gifts, mementos, and clothing vendors. For those interested in more information about the parade, softball game, vendors, or other activities please call - 785-421-3311.