

Around the Metroplex

Global Slavery Remembrance Day

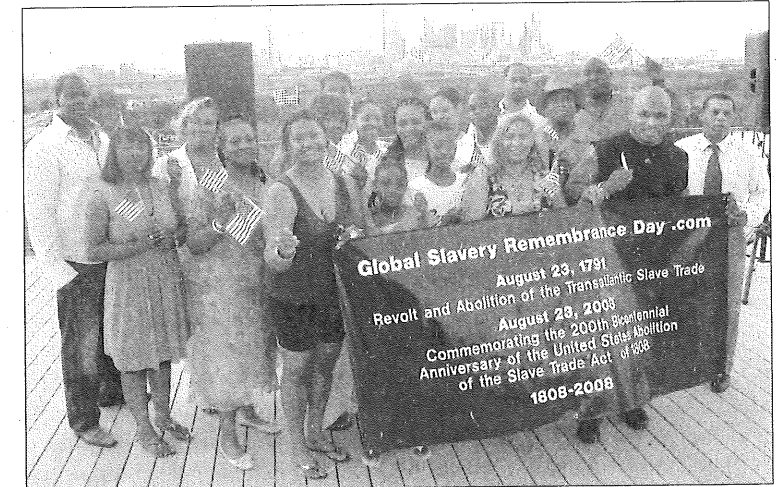
Special to The Dallas Examiner

There's only one place in the entire country where a worldwide observance of the abolition of slavery was conducted. And Dallas was that place.

The city became the exclusive U.S. host site for the Global Slavery Remembrance Day, an event sponsored by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The reception and ceremony took place Aug. 23, on the rooftop of the West & Associates Building.

August 23 was named and designated as the official International Day for celebrating the 200th anniversary of the enactment of the Revolt and Abolition of The Slave Trade Act in the United States, which actually was enacted on January 1, 1808.

August 23 was also chosen to observe another anniversary. On the nights of Aug. 22 and 23, 1791, the only victorious slave revolt known in the history of the slave trade took place in Santo Domingo, today Haiti, led by Toussaint Louverture, a key development that helped lead to the 1808 abolition of transporting



Venita Benitez (center, behind banner) led local organizers to observe the Global Slavery Remembrance Day. - Photo by Gordon Jackson/The Dallas Examiner

slaves from Africa.

The event also brought awareness of the practice of slavery that still takes place today. The U.S. State Department estimates that over 800,000 people are victims to human trafficking around the world, mostly involving young women and girls for prostitution.

"At the apex of UNESCO's purpose, in addition to eradicating the practice and residue of slavery globally, is to inform, educate and bring awareness of slavery's historical influence and impact on today's culture to facil-

itate more tolerance, understanding, inspire and evoke changes worldwide by empowering everyday people to take a stand," said Venita Benitez, organizer of the Dallas event.

Over 200 countries observed the anniversary with UNESCO. Reverend Peter Johnson, Director of Texas Operations of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, led a field of dignitaries as the guest speaker at the Dallas event. State Senator Royce West also made remarks during the special unveiling ceremony.

Community comes together for student trip of a lifetime

Special to The Dallas Examiner

A South Dallas middle school, its staff, a minister and a local entrepreneur all joined forces to help a student make the trip of her life.

Brittany Wright, an 8th grader at Billy Earl Dade Middle School, needed \$1,500 for she and her grandmother, Mattie Mullen, to attend a nationally-

"It's a blessing. It was a struggle trying to get to this point and I'm so grateful," Mullen said. "I want this to be a foundation for not only her, but other kids, so that they

