

Month, events recognize military children

Did you know the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting the annual Month of the Military Child April 1-30?

"Fort Sill is proud to celebrate the Month of the Military Child. Each year, we take this time to show our appreciation and respect for our military children and youths as well as the contributions they bring to the military community," said Mary Michelle Turner, Parent Central Services director.

This special month helps us focus on promoting positive community relationships and showing our appreciation of the commitments made by military children. What a great reason to celebrate, because our children are our future. Everything we can do to show what they mean to us may promote a lasting benefit not only to their families, but to the Army and the entire nation.

"Everything we do every day is about supporting the Army Family Covenant and



Did you know?

By Col. Paul Hossenlopp
Fort Sill Garrison commander

making sure we keep it alive and well," said Brenda Spencer-Ragland, FMWR director.

The MOMC parade, the first event of the month, "stepped out" the celebration and an estimated 500 children, families and staff attended. And this is just

one, of several events scheduled.

I invite you to see the beautiful calendar of events our FMWR staff assembled to provide everyone a complete list of activities along with the dates and times they occur. You can view that calendar at

www.sillmwr.com/Forms/MOMC_brochure_final.pdf.

Children and their parents can enjoy a static display of military vehicles and equipment today near the three post child development centers.

"Throughout April as we celebrate the Month of the Military Child, we just want to recognize the excellence in our children, because they do make a lot of sacrifices with their parents deploying, often having to move away to live with their grandparents or aunts and

uncles," said Spencer-Ragland. "It's very important for us to let them know how special they are and how much we appreciate the sacrifices they make each and every day."

This month long event provides a time of fun and entertainment in a safe environment for Fort Sill Soldiers, families and the Lawton-Fort Sill community. I encourage you to attend these events and witness firsthand the joy children bring to the entire Army family.

Clinic

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the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry "Blackhorse Regiment."

Lucious, eight years younger than Joe, remembers his brother as very loving.

"He'd get all of us to wres-

tle and he'd give the winner a pack of gum," Lucious said.

In the 1950s and 1960s, neighborhoods were close-knit through school, sports and church, said McIntosh, who first met Joe at their church when she was in the fourth grade, around 1956.

There were three elementary schools in the area

which fed into Carver Junior High School, then all the neighborhood students went to Washington High School, she said.

McIntosh and other students also attended Northeastern State University with Joe.

"Joe and the guys loved to cook for us," she said. "You know men, every starch in the world, nothing green. It was like a family thing, we enjoyed it immensely."

Robert Ivery, a childhood friend of Joe, called him "a living angel."

"He was very responsible,

and one of the best friends I've ever had," said Ivery, who lives in Owasso, Okla.

Wilbert Reed Jr. attended grade school and college with Joe. He remembered Joe participating in football, wrestling and swimming in high school. And, Joe had been seeing one of his relatives.

"Joe was supposed to marry a cousin of mine, Sharon Jeffries, the same year he was killed," Reed said.

Clinic services

Thomas TMC serves

Soldiers in the 95th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) as well as officers and enlisted members who are here for advanced training, including the Marine Detachment and Captains' Career Course. The clinic had a soft opening in early January, and has been seeing between 50 and 60 service members a day, said Maj. Jeremy Beauchamp, RACH Soldier Medicine chief.

"It provides head-to-toe primary care," Beauchamp said. Its services include pharmacy and radiology. The clinic is staffed with

three doctors with one military officer in charge, one pharmacist, two licensed practical nurses, one head nurse who is an RN, one office manager, a receptionist and a file clerk.

The clinic is modern and was designed with a logical patient-workflow of services in mind, Bedick said. The building was formerly used as a preventive medicine clinic. It underwent a \$1.5 million renovation that added 2,500 square feet to the facility, said Robert Dufurin, Thomas TMC office manager.



Maj. Gen. David Halverson, Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill commanding general, and Oklahoma Congressman Tom Cole greet the Thomas family before the dedication of the Spec. 4 Joe Minor Thomas Troop Medical Clinic April 6 at Fort Sill. Hundreds of relatives, friends, Soldiers and dignitaries attended the ceremony at Building 2913 Custer Road.

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