

## KBR Sponsors Houston's U.S. Independence Day Celebration



Employee Jaime Hartwell and her husband, in the KBR volunteer shirts, assisting with Houston's Freedom Over Texas Independence Day celebration.

When the single sponsor of the largest land-based fireworks display and Independence Day celebration in the U.S. bowed out at the last minute, KBR was one of several companies who stepped in to save the day, literally. By donating US\$100,000, KBR became an anchor sponsor for the Freedom Over Texas event and helped enable the festivities to continue in Houston and become a free event to the public this year.

Braving the 100F-plus degree heat on the Fourth of July, over 100,000 festival-goers made their way down a stretch of Allen Parkway, just outside of downtown, to help commemorate 233 years of U.S. independence. The event, which also honored the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NASA's Apollo XI Lunar Landing, featured various activities consisting of NASA exhibits; unique displays of military artifacts and vehicles; rides, games and face painting in the Kids Zone; the men's and women's statewide volleyball tournament finals; corporate and non-profit booths; and an abundance of great food and beverages scattered throughout. Water misting areas were also strategically placed to help any over-heated attendees cool down.

Entertainment at the festival consisted of three stages, with music ranging from country western and rock 'n' roll, to Latin, pop and oldies. Concluding the music line-up, country music star, Clay Walker, hit the main stage and had the entire audience singing along to his and other artists' crowd-favorites.

Following Walker's performance, the stunning, 30-minute-long fireworks display began. The magnificent presentation combined specially choreographed music with unsurpassed pyrotechnics - spectators took in breathtaking images of planets, hearts, smiley faces and other showering bursts of color. Both the concert and fireworks were simulcast on local television stations and radio channels to an estimated audience of over one million.

"This was my first time to volunteer at Freedom Over Texas and I would definitely do it again - even though it was VERY hot out there," said Jamie Hartwell, Community Relations Coordinator, who along with her husband, helped with servicing the VIP tent. "The overhead fireworks were a spectacular sight!"

"There were a lot of military members at the park that day and I was happy to be able to thank them in person, for their service and sacrifices," she added. "I'm proud that KBR is such a strong supporter of our military men and women."

Approximately 50 KBR employees, family and friends assisted with other duties such as festival greeting, and tending the many booths, including the KBR booth, which hosted three non-profit organizations: Soldiers' Angels, Career and Recovery Resources and Goodwill Industries of Houston. The KBR booth was located front and center, in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the masses. In fact, KBR was the only company in the entire Liberty Park East section of the festival to invite non-profits to participate. KBR signage was prominently displayed around every bend of the affair.

Although, volunteer Marilyn Prewitt, Document Control Supervisor, Ras Tanura Project, helped with all of the organizations that were based in the KBR booth, she is also actively involved with the Soldiers' Angels organization.

"Supporting our troops overseas and supporting the wounded became my passion a few years ago when I became involved with Soldiers' Angels," said Prewitt. "At the festival, we had postcards available and encouraged attendees to write notes to our troops, thanking them for their bravery and service. Because of the generous spirit of KBR and the public, we collected over 1,000 postcards, as well as some donations that day."

"We also had the opportunity to meet quite a few servicemen and women who had just returned from, or were about to leave for, Iraq and Afghanistan," she added. "It gave all the volunteers great pleasure to be able to their shake hands."

Soldiers' Angels is a volunteer-based nonprofit that has over 30 different teams supporting all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. Through special projects, dedicated teams and individuals supporting U.S. troops, they make a visible difference in the lives of service members and their families. KBR provides general funding for their programs. To learn more, visit the [Soldiers' Angels website](#).

Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. is a non-profit, United Way agency established in 1945. Their mission is to help people identify and overcome barriers to employment. They provide a wide array of services to a diverse population challenged by barriers such as older age, illiteracy, disabilities, homelessness, lack of skills, substance abuse, and at-risk behavior. KBR provides funding for their Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program. To learn more, visit the [Career and Recovery Resources website](#).

Goodwill Industries of Houston, the largest workforce provider in the city for special-needs populations, changes lives positively through the power of work. Since 1945, it has provided assessment, individual employment plans, training programs, employment counseling, and job search assistance to help clients find and keep a job. KBR provides funding for their Veteran Education and Training Program. To learn more, visit the [Goodwill Houston website](#).

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