



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Galveston District

News Release

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Galveston District celebrates Women's Equality Day

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District celebrated Women's Equality Day Aug. 25, 2009, at the district's headquarters building with a program inspired by the accomplishments of women pacesetters.

The program, titled "Women Who Dare," drew a diverse crowd from the district's various departments and featured stories about the struggles and accomplishments of Rosie the Riveter, Maya Angelou and many women military heroes.

"It's important to commemorate Women's Equality Day and the 19th Amendment, which allowed for women all over our nation to vote," said Franchelle Craft, a civil engineer and Federal Women's Program coordinator. "Our program showcases the struggles women have overcome and allows for others to see that women are able to accomplish so much."

Patricia Brannan, a project assistant in the district's Engineering and Construction branch, portrayed Rosie the Riveter during a skit presentation to the crowd.

"I wanted to pay tribute to my mom, Mary S. King," said Brannan.

"When she was younger, she worked during World War II when the men went off to war and there was no one to man the refineries in Port Arthur, Texas, where she lived at the time."

"The women were asked to work in the refineries to replace the men who went to fight in the war," she said. "My mother went to work at the Gulf refinery to help with the war effort, packing part of the refinery where they canned 50-gallon drums and loaded oil to transport to other places."

"It was awesome," said Brannan. "My mom was Rosie the Riveter-like."

A poem written by Maya Angelou was also recited by Celia Cockburn of the district's Contracting Office. Craft hoped to provide empowerment to the workforce by educating event goers about women who took chances, risked their lives, were a voice and inspired others.

"Our program reminds women everyday that our struggle is not over," said Craft. "It's very important for us to have so many male employees in the Galveston District show their support and participate in our event."

For more information about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's Federal Women's Program, visit www.swg.usace.army.mil and click on "Employment" in the District Menu bar.



Patricia Brannan holds a Rosie the Riveter sign up after a skit performed during Women's Equality Day at the Jadwin Building.