

D.C. holds 22nd Annual Adoption Day ceremonies

By David Sherfinski
Examiner Staff Writer

Sixteen children were formally adopted at the Moultrie Courthouse Saturday as part of the city's 22nd Annual Adoption Day. The ceremony was one of many events held throughout the country as a part of national Adoption Day on Nov. 15.

"It's our job to raise public awareness about adoption. ... We want to make sure these kids are not forgotten and without families," said Anita M. Josey-Herring, the Presiding Judge of the D.C. Superior Court's Family Court, in her opening remarks.

Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C.'s Delegate in Congress, noted that the poverty rate in the District is 21 percent, but for children ages 5 to 17, it's at 30 percent and for children under 5, it's 34 percent.

"That says it all," she said.

Holmes Norton expressed her appreciation to the adopting parents and said they were doing the right thing. "The children need you," she said.

Motivational speaker LeCount Holmes — who grew up in the District and graduated from Roosevelt High in 1968 — delivered the keynote address for the event, stressing the need to "pass the baton correctly" to future generations.

Also on hand were District councilman Tommy Wells, D-Ward 6, U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu, D-Louisiana, and host Barbara Harrison of WRC-TV Channel 4, who has been at all 22 of the D.C. ceremonies.

Kathleen Jackson formally adopted her third son, five-year-old Sam, after adopting his biological brothers Tyler and Joseph about a year and a half ago.

"It's a nice ceremony, but it's not kid-friendly," said Jackson, adding, "I'm exhausted — I want to go to bed" after looking after all three for about four hours Saturday morning.

Natalie Bloodworth formally adopted Micah — the biological brother of Sam, Tyler and Joseph — and said she plans to keep him in touch with his three brothers.

"It was wonderful," she said of the event. "I've been busy with the little guys, but it was great."

Those with questions about the program or interested in adopting can call the D.C. Child and Family Services agency at 202-671-LOVE.

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Praise Wyatt-Borah, right, is adopted Saturday on Washington's 22nd Annual Adoption Day — one year after her sister, Keyana Wyatt-Borah, was adopted in the same ceremony.

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