

**San Antonio Independent Living Services
presents**

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 22nd Anniversary Celebration

Friday, July 27, 2012

8:30 am - 1:00 pm

**401 Villita
San Antonio, TX 78205**

A Special Tribute Honoring Our Veterans



**Unity Pride Stroll begins at 8:30 am
at 524 W. Commerce (El Mercado) to 401 Villita**



The 22nd Anniversary Celebration of The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

Friday, July 27, 2012

El Mercado

524 W. Commerce - El Mercado

- 8:00 am Gather at El Mercado (524 W. Commerce)
- 8:30 am Welcome
Music by Lé Paul and Liz Mee
- 8:40 am Let's Stroll Speech - Marilyn L. Weber, Deaf Interpreter Services

Villita Building

Villita Assembly Building (401 Villita St.)

- 9:30 am Welcome - Kitty L. Brietzke, J.D., Executive Director of SAILS
- 9:35 am Introduction of WOAI's Elsa Ramon, SAILS ADA Emcee
- 9:45 am Welcome and Presentation of the Colors
National Anthem - Mia Romero
- 10:00 am Invocation - Rodney Harris
- 10:15 am Proclamation - Governor's Office, City of San Antonio
- 10:20 am Special Recognition - BAMC Army Fisher Houses
- 10:25 am Introduction of Keynote Speaker – Dr. Kitty Brietzke and SAILS Board Chair
Keynote Speaker: Roberto "Bobby" Barrera
- 10:45 am Presentation of Awards - Dr. Kitty Brietzke, Marie Herrera, Gloria Aguirre
Large Employer Award, Public Servant Award, Small Employer Award, Media Awards,
Individual Advocacy Awards, Personal Attendant, Organizations of the Year, Innovation Award
- 11:00 am Visit Vendor booths, enjoy food by HEB
Music by Dreams Fulfilled Through Music
Drawings for the Door Prizes
- 1:00 pm Closing Remarks and Gratitudes

Master of Ceremonies: WOAI's Emmy-Nominated Elsa Ramon



WOAI's Emmy-Nominated Elsa Ramon co-anchors with Randy Beamer at 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. weekdays. She brings a wealth of experience to the Alamo City from previous on-air positions in Dallas, Phoenix and most recently, Los Angeles.

Elsa's always looking for a story that affects San Antonio at the street level, so she launched "Elsa's Angels" that spotlights people who give selflessly although may need help themselves.

Although she has worked throughout the country she has very strong San Antonio roots with four generations of her family living here. "Coming back to Texas has given my father the chance to spend invaluable time with his granddaughter," she says of her move. "San Antonio is a wonderful place to raise children."

Elsa started her career early as a kid reporter in Austin for a show called Kids World. She met her heartthrob's mom, who was a producer for the local NBC affiliate and ended up snagging a position at the station. It is no wonder her broadcast news journalism career has taken off! Elsa is very excited to be a part of San Antonio which is rich in culture, art, great food and entertainment.

SAILS welcomes Elsa Ramon as this year's American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) celebration emcee on July 27, 2012



Judge Carson has been a Municipal Court Judge since 1984 and manages his own private practice. Judge Carson is a graduate of St. Mary's University and obtained his law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law. Judge Carson, who lost his hearing in an accident, uses captioning (CART) services, interpreters and uses computer based software to facilitate communication while on the bench.

An accomplished individual, Judge Carson has served as a litigator, counselor and civic speaker. In 2009, he was the recipient of Deaf Interpreter Services' "Outstanding Achievement Award". He has been a gubernatorial appointee, served on multiple planning councils, written various charters, and is a Director Emeritus of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition (rodeo). Judge Carson is also licensed to practice before the Supreme Court of Texas and three Federal Courts.



Roberto "Bobby" Barrera, a U.S. Marine Corps combat disabled Vietnam War veteran was the National Commander of the 1.2 million-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in 2009. He also served as Chairman of the DAV Board of Directors for one year in 2010.

On September 16th, while serving with the Marines in Vietnam, he was seriously burned when enemy forces exploded a 500-pound bomb rigged as a land mine beneath the armored personnel carrier he was traveling in. Besides his face, over 40 percent of his body was also burned, he lost his right hand at the wrist and his left arm at the shoulder.

Bobby battled courageously to overcome numerous physical and mental obstacles. He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology at St. Mary's University, and later, a Master of Education degree in guidance and counseling at Sul Ross State University.

In addition to teaching high school, Bobby's career has included the position as the Director Family Support Center at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio. He currently conducts motivational presentations for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Bobby is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. They include: Purple Heart Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Combat Action Ribbon, the DAV Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year for 1998; LIFE's (Leaders In Furthering Education Foundation) Presidential Unsung Hero Award for 1998; Disabled Veteran of the Year for the State of Texas in 1990 and again in 1998; and Department of Defense Outstanding Employee with a Disability Award for 1997. The late Jesse Brown, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, selected Bobby's personal story of overcoming disability for inclusion in his book, "The Price of Their Blood." In 2005, Oliver North included Bobby's story in one of his television series, "War Stories with Oliver North."

A life member of DAV Chapter 5 in San Antonio, Bobby and his wife, Maricelia, reside in Del Rio. They are parents of three grown children and grandparents to four grandchildren.

Honoring Army Fisher Houses



1990 Pauline Trost, wife of Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Carlisle Trost, presents to Mr. and Mrs. Fisher the need for temporary lodging facilities for families at major military medical centers.

Two years later, the first Fisher House at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX opened in 1992.

In 1995 Fisher House II at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, TX opened.

By 2007 more than 3,000 guests, including some 300 wounded service members, attended the Brooke Army Medical Center ceremony on January 29th that marked the opening of Fisher Houses III and IV (number 36 and 37), increasing the capacity at the Center from 15 to 57 and the Center for the Intrepid.

SAILS is honoring BAMC Army Fisher Houses as the veteran organization of the year.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MEMBERS OF 2012 ADA PLANNING COMMITTEE

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 At Your Service
 CTD
 DARS: Division for Blind Services
 Deaf Interpreter Services (DIS)
 Disability Rights
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Dryer Vent Lady
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