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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

O·A·S·I·S

JUNE/JULY 1996

Hawaii Alaska Pacific Mountain Central Eastern Atlantic

CLASS IN SESSION

The future of training

Memorial

Oklahoma City bombing remembered one year later

"This quilt is dedicated to those who lost their lives in the Oklahoma City Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building bombing, as well as to their families. It is also dedicated to the survivors and the rescue workers. My heart goes out to every one of you. This is my way of showing my sorrow for what happened on that tragic day. I will never forget. To the families, I hope this brings some comfort to your hearts. I know we will never know the pain you have endured."

These are the sentiments of **Robin Hart**, a program assistant at OHA headquarters. Robin spent a year creating the quilt in honor of those who lost their lives. Depicted is an American flag with a cross made up of carnations, daisies, roses and tulips. One name of each of the 168 victim is written on each flower.

Robin gave the quilt to Commissioner Chater, who, during her trip to Oklahoma City for a memorial service, presented it to the mayor. The quilt will be displayed in a museum that will be built on the site where the Murrah building once stood.

SSA employees will never forget that tragic day. They remembered the first anniversary of the April 19 bombing in a variety of ways.

"During April, cards and flowers from SSAers across the coun-

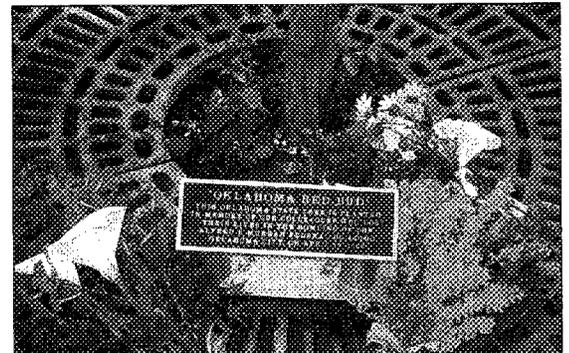


Robin Hart holds the quilt she created in memory of Oklahoma City bombing victims.

try arrived at our office," said Oklahoma City Assistant District Manager Dennis Purifoy. "Our staff remembered our lost co-workers throughout the week. On April 16, several survivors and family members of victims laid a wreath at the Murrah federal building.

"On the 18th, we planted a redbud tree, which was donated by the Feather River, C&F., DO. And each lost employee was recognized during a 'time for remembrance' ceremony at the DO. Commissioner Chater joined us later that day and met with survivors and victims' families,

"At 9:02 a.m. on April 19," Dennis continued, "the office observed 168 seconds of silence, while employees who survived



Employees in the San Jose, Calif., DO, placed flowers and held a memorial ceremony around the redbud tree planted outside their building.

the blast attended a commemorative ceremony that began at the bomb site and ended at the convention center where Vice President Gore spoke. Commissioner Chater also attended this ceremony."

Dennis noted that, to date, three employees are still on worker's comp, three are on part-time worker's comp, one resigned, one took early retire-

ment, one received a promotion to another office, and five transferred to other field offices to help recover.

At the Blytheville, Ark., District Office, employees stood silent at 9:02 a.m. for 168 seconds to remember the people who died in the explosion. A memorial table held material about the bombing.

Photographs, news articles and the names of the victims were placed in the waiting area of the Mount Holly, N.J., Branch Office. Each employee wore a yellow carnation with ribbons of purple and blue. The names of SSA victims were read by Operations Supervisor Edward Benedict, and staff and clients stood during 168 seconds of silence.

An ABC-TV news correspondent attended the observance and had on-air interviews with members of the staff regarding their feelings about the tragedy.

At SSA headquarters, employees wore blue ribbons in tribute to the victims. A period of silence was observed throughout the complex. During a remembrance ceremony, employees joined SSA top staff and union representatives as wreaths were laid at the memorial garden established for the victims. ♦



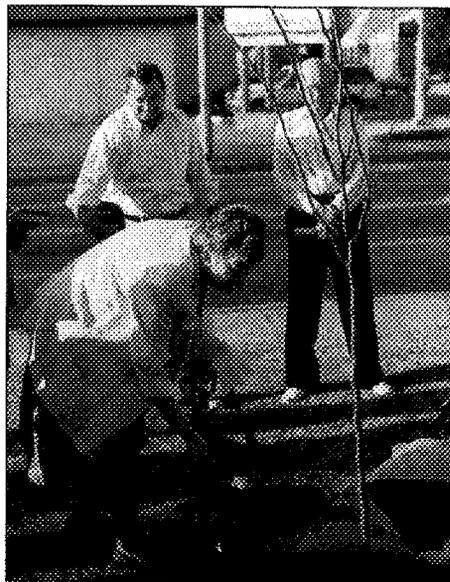
Commissioner Chater (c.) visits with Oklahoma City DO employees, from l., Claims Rep Ylita Edd, Service Rep Beverly Rankin, and Claims Reps Janet Beck, Tillie Lerma and Barbara West.



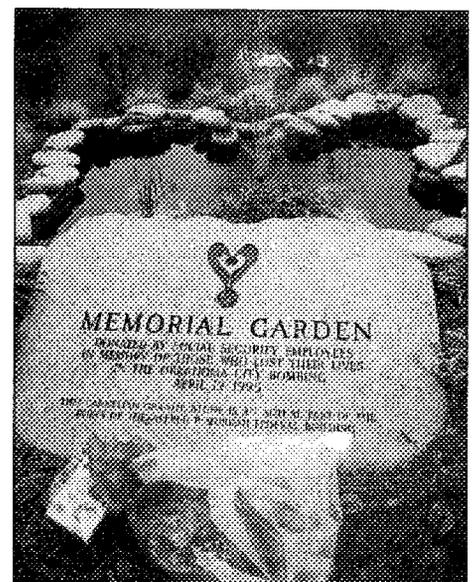
Mount Holly, N.J., BO, staff wear yellow carnations in memory of the bombing victims.



Ethan Biddy, grandson of Service Rep Oleta Biddy, a victim in the bombing, and Barbara Williams, widow of Operations Supervisor Steve Williams, help lay wreaths.



Claims Rep Judy Walker, helps to plant a tree in memory of lost co-workers. Judy's husband, Bob, who also was a claims rep in the Oklahoma City DO, died in the bombing.



A monument plate, carved from granite from the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, is part of the memorial garden at headquarters.