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# Carole Lawrence named DECT's Silent Hero

By Elvia Wallace-Martinez  
DECT honored Carole Lawrence as its 2006 Silent Hero with a lunch and program hosted in

the Central Library on Sep. 12. Recently retired as the City of Irving's Health Communications Supervisor after 22 years of service, Ms.

Lawrence was recognized for her contributions to the community.

"This lady impacted so many lives, including mine," Elvia Wallace-Martinez executive director for DECT, said. "Carole is a perfect example of humanism for our

community. I met her back in the early 90's at a '5 de Mayo' event, when she was dismantling her booth and, all tired she was pulling this huge portable plastic container with wheels where she was placing her educational material. When I

offered to help her carry all this heavy stuff, she told me she had the dream to outreach Spanish speaking people and other minority families to offer her advice and

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## Children honor a day of infamy and pride



Thanks for the memories, friends and coworkers (l to r) Elvia Wallace-Martinez, James Dickens, Carole Lawrence, Mayor Gear, Dirk Stricklin and Juan Carlos Reynoso gather to honor Carole Lawrence as DECT's Silent Hero.

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brochures. Well her dream came through."

"When three strong forces work together: The city, the business owners, and the community, the results are incredible," Dirk Stricklin, owner of Savers Cost Plus and a long-time supporter of DECT, said. "Ms. Lawrence has served as a bridge through which her public health programs were made available to the public. She well deserves the honorable title of Silent Hero."

"Carole is the ultimate representation of a hard working indi-

vidual," Juan Carlos Reynoso, the City of Irving's Bilingual Health Educator, said. "She has given her heart to the community. Her work has provided people with very needed health screening, which have helped save lives. I think she truly is a hero in the community. It was always fun to work with Carole. Each day was full of surprises and nothing was impossible."

"I am so honored, because DECT is the most worthy organization," Ms. Lawrence said. "I am deeply honored to accept the Si-

lent Hero award. It is something I never dreamed about."

Though she is looking forward to becoming accustomed to retired life, Ms. Lawrence has fond memories of her time with the City's Health Department.

"It has been most fun I have ever had. I really had a great time working for the City of Irving. I feel like we have made great strides in improving the health of the community through our programs," she said.