

GET UP, AND GO FORWARD!



Robert Spears (back row, third from left) and his wife Katherine with youngsters at the 33rd BGACDC banquet.

Robert Spears, Jr., who grew up around Marvell, graduated from M.M. Tate High School and went off to a long career in government service, came home the other day with a message for the new generation of children: Setbacks are not failures but only incentives to succeed.

Spears, who did a tour in the Vietnam War after college and had a career in government in Milwaukee, was the speaker at the 33rd annual banquet of the Boys, Girls, Adults Community Development Center, which each year celebrates the success of its programs for children. He retired in 2002.

Setbacks and momentary failures, Spears told the children, are a part of life, but never, never allow them to lead to permanent failure.



"Instead, get up, dust yourself off and move forward," he said. "Never give up!"

With the help of the preparation, vision and community-empowerment programs like those provided by BGACDC, he said, "you can succeed wildly and make a contribution not only to your life and your family's but to your community and the nation."

Spears married Katherine Gatson, also a graduate of M.M. Tate High School. They have two children.