



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Galveston District

News Release

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Galveston District marks 128 years

The Galveston District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers observed its 128th anniversary on Feb. 25th. The observance included a Town Hall meeting for District employees, birthday cake, and a reading of a Certificate of Recognition by the Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Galveston, Mr. Danny Weber, Sr.

Weber paid tribute to “the 300-plus employees [who] contribute immensely to increased commerce, quality of life, and the overall success of Galveston and our Nation.”

Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander, noted the

long legacy of partnership between the Corps of Engineers Galveston District and the many communities along the Texas Gulf Coast.

“It represents more than a century of endeavors undertaken for this region,” he said.

The organization was established in Galveston on Feb. 25, 1880, beginning a history closely intertwined with the city. Born of the need for deep water ports along the Texas Gulf Coast, the Galveston District was given the job of conducting river and harbor improvements, including construction of the jetties to

make Galveston Channel navigable. The Galveston stone jetties were completed in 1893, allowing deep-draft shipping to enter the port.

Following the Great Storm of 1900, the citizens of Galveston County made plans to construct a seawall. A former Chief of Engineers headed the board preparing the plans and designs for the Galveston seawall. In July 1904, Galveston completed the first segment of the seawall, and later, in partnership with local organizations, the Galveston District Corps of Engineers added to the existing seawall to extend protection.

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Colonel David C. Weston (left), Galveston District Corps of Engineers commander, accepts a Certificate of Recognition from Danny Weber, Sr., District 5 Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem, in honor of the District's 128th anniversary. The District was established in Galveston on Feb. 25, 1880, and the City of Galveston's certificate notes the Corps' efforts that built the Galveston jetties, helped construct the seawall, and numerous other projects that have contributed to the increased commerce, quality of life, and the success of Galveston. (USACE photo by Travers Powell).

Another milestone occurred in 1949, when the Corps completed the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, opening the Texas Gulf Coast, including Galveston Island, to intracoastal commerce. Many other accomplishments filled the years of two World Wars, the Cold War, and the Global War on Terror.

Today, the Galveston District encompasses more than 50,000 square miles, 700

miles of coastline, and 150 miles inland. The District runs from the Rio Grande River in Texas to the Sabine River in Louisiana, and includes 48 counties and two Louisiana parishes. It is home to 28 ports handling 400 million tons of commerce—Texas leads the nation in total tonnage handled— and a thousand miles of channels—760 deep draft, and 240 shallow draft. The District has approximately

340 people performing the missions of Navigation, Flood Risk Mitigation, Environmental Restoration, Shoreline Protection, Regulatory, Emergency Management and Military Construction.