



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Rock Island District

# Tower Times

Volume 26

No. 2

December 2003





# Spotlight on the District

## Richard Haggard

Mississippi River Visitor Center Volunteer

Story and photo by Mark Kane

It would take more than two years for a full-time employee to surpass 5,000 work hours, imagine how much determination, dedication and discipline it would take to reach that plateau if you're only route to it was working part time as a volunteer.

Richard Haggard, a 73-year-old retiree and volunteer at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, didn't consciously set out to eclipse 5,000 volunteer hours working for the District when he started in 1991, he said it's just worked out that way.

"At the time, I thought I'd be lucky to work at this for three years," said Haggard. "I never thought I'd work here for 12 years and be so satisfied."

Haggard, who grew up in Mercer, Mo., started his volunteer work with the District on the 4th of July in 1991 at Locks and Dams 14 by handing out water-safety literature. Specifically, he began working at the visitor center under Steve Vacek in September 1991.

"When I retired in 1989 from John Deere Harvester we (Haggard and his wife, who passed away two years ago) traveled a lot and finally got tired of it," said Haggard. "I saw an ad in the newspaper, spoke to Brenda and Leon at Locks and Dam 14 and the rest is history."

His volunteer responsibilities include a lot of the same duties that full-time employees are involved in, like assisting with Eco-Meets, programs at malls, fishing clinics, general visitor center customer assistance, public interaction, answering telephone calls, upkeep of center displays, and conducting tours.

Haggard says the reason he's still working for the District is simple.

"I feel like I'm treated as an equal and not as a volunteer, and I respect everyone I work with. Anyone I've dealt with is nice," said Haggard.

Haggard says he especially enjoys interacting with people and does so on a regular basis.

"Everyone from small children to people that are 90-years-old," said Haggard.

Haggard reached 5,000 hours of volunteer service to the District the week of Nov. 10.

"You get what you put into it," said Haggard. "I think a person looking to



**Haggard adds 30 seconds to his 5,000 hours of volunteer work at the visitor center as he feeds the center's fish (assisted by Don Bardole) as a part of the numerous duties he performs at the center.**

volunteer needs to go into it to help, not for the title ... that's what makes volunteer service rewarding."

Haggard's accomplishments and volunteer service to the District haven't gone unnoticed.

"He is truly an asset, meeting and greeting our thousands of visitor center

customers, assisting in project fishing clinics, Eco-Meets and many other areas where he has volunteered his time," said Roger Bollman, Mississippi River Project Office. "His knowledge of the Quad-City area and friendly nature make him an exceptional person and volunteer."

"The very fact that he's still working here after all this time, tells you a lot about the quality of his customer service, and his ability to relate to any and all staff that we've had," said Don Bardole, Mississippi River Visitor Center. "It's gonna be hard when the day comes in here and he says he can't work anymore. He's become a fixture ... invaluable."

He has eight grandchildren and a great grandchild on the way. He specifically pointed out that his 25-year-old grandson, Jason, used to help out at the visitor center by playing Woodsy the Owl, and is currently serving in the Air Force as a Staff Sergeant.

Haggard served 2½ years in the Army as a Staff Sergeant from 1951 through 1952. He served one year in Korea during the Korean War where he drove a tank, and one year at Fort Hood, Texas.

His hobbies include working in his garden, fishing, volunteer work, and just keeping busy.

Haggard's advice to anyone reading this article is, "Never say anything about anybody that you wouldn't say to their face, and always give people a smile no matter what mood you're in or they're in."

Even after exceeding 5,000 hours, there doesn't seem to be any sign that Haggard is letting up. His reply after being asked when he plans to stop working at the visitor center reflected his lighthearted outlook on life, while emphasizing his lifelong word ethic.

"Till they run me off I guess," said Haggard. 🇺🇸

***Tower Times***  
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December 2003

# Tower Times

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### On the Cover

Bert Eddy, commissioner, Louisa County Levee District Number 11, opens a flag gate for LaShell Tillman, Engineering Division, and Darron Niles, Programs and Project Management, for inspection during the District's annual flood exercise completed this fall.

The inspection found the gate wasn't sealing properly and was deemed inoperable. See pages 6-7 for more on the flood exercise.

Photo by Camie Knollenberg, Programs and Project Management.

# Happy Holidays

By Col. Duane Gapinski, District Engineer

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. My family and I enjoyed a delicious Iowa farm-raised fresh turkey on our first Thanksgiving in the Quad Cities. It was a great chance for me to spend some time with my family.

Although I am disappointed at having been displaced as the Gapinski family 5-mile run champion during the YMCA Turkey Trot.

In addition to my supportive wife and children, I also have seen much in the past 4½ months to be thankful for.

The District currently has five people who are serving on active duty and 20 people who are deployed in the Central Command theater of operations. Several of our employees have recently completed active-duty tours or deployments. Others have volunteered for deployment in the near future. I certainly appreciate their selfless service and ask everyone to keep them, their families, and all Americans serving in dangerous places, in your thoughts and prayers always, but especially during the holiday season.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Combined Federal Campaign. The money we contributed will do a lot of good for our community and those less fortunate than us. I encourage those of you who didn't contribute because of uncertainty, with how the program is run, to bring your concerns to our District's keypeople. Speaking of which, I would like to thank Mark Kane and Steve Russell for all their hard work on this year's campaign, as well as Joe Nobiling who served as a Loaned Executive.

One of many things I have come to appreciate is people's willingness to tackle tough issues, there certainly are several. Many situations in which we deal with the public, Congress, and even internal to the District, often do not have good solutions, nor lead to outcomes that will make everyone happy. However, it is important that we do what is right. And I am glad to say that I believe we are right. When dealing with these situations, I always remind myself if it were easy, they'd hire monkeys. My other favorite saying is "That's why I get a big Christmas bonus." (Disclaimer: I do not get a Christmas bonus.)

I welcome the opportunity to talk with many of you at site visits and Brown Bag Lunches. Both of these are great opportunities, not only for me to hear your concerns, but to answer your questions. I encourage you to make the most of

these opportunities. Some of the things I've talked about include some of the potential impacts of USACE 2012, competitive sourcing and, most recently, the National Security Personnel System. The details of this new system are still being worked out, but there will be changes to staffing. Also, job classification, pay and performance management, labor-management relations, discipline, as well as adverse actions and appeals. What won't change are all the safeguards concerning merit system principles, whistleblower, hiring of relatives, political favoritism, and discrimination appeals. We will keep you

*Even though I have been in the District a short time, I feel it is a great place to work and I come to work everyday excited about what we do.*



posted on the details as they develop.

Even though I have been in the District a short time, I feel it is a great place to work, and I come to work everyday excited about what we do. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. We provide valuable services to our fellow citizens. You have earned the right to be proud. I know I am.

I would like to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. Please be safe so that we can continue to work together on projects that are important to our nation. 🇺🇸





## Corps Designs Arsenal's Monument to Civilian Service

By Mark Kane

The Rock Island District engineers completed the design and engineering that resulted in the construction of the Rock Island Arsenal Monument to Civilian Service.

Kevin Holden, Engineering Division, said the project was initiated by request from the Arsenal Commanding Officer, Col. Randall Corbin, in August 2001.

The concept of the monument was selected in May 2002, as a group effort between the Arsenal's Morale, Welfare and Recreation committee, the Arsenal Museum, Corbin and others.

By August 2002, the District completed plans and specifications for the monument and construction followed that fall.

The monument was completed and dedicated in July 2003 at the Arsenal's annual picnic and cost the government less than \$50,000.

The components of the monument (pictured above) include a graphic display of the Arsenal's historic timeline, a listing of the island's most historic landmarks, and a centerpiece plaque publicly recognizing the long and dedicated service of the civilian workforce on Arsenal Island. 🏗️

## District Raises Big \$\$\$ For Charities

By Mark Kane

The Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign came to an end in the District after the totals from the annual live and online auctions were tallied.

After numerous weeks of collecting funds for charities through CFC, the District raised \$49,316.55.

One distinction the District is known for in the campaign is its knack for raising money through fundraisers. This year we raised \$5,632.93 through the online and live auction, chili cook off, and pulled pork events.

The live auction featured numerous works of art and raised \$2,644.25 alone, while the online auction raised \$1,493.

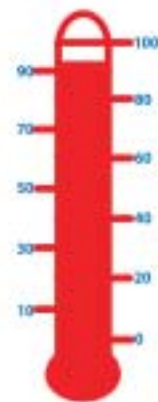
More than 39 percent of District employees eligible to participate in the Illowa Bi-State CFC contributed directly to the charity of their choice by filling out a pledge form.

While the District's numbers fell short of the \$52,000 monetary goal and the 50 percent participation goal; those that contributed gave a lot. The average contribution for the District was more than \$183.

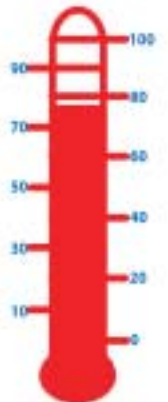
Thanks to everyone that contributed to numerous charities through the CFC and helped the District to raise so much money.

A huge thanks to all the keypeople, everyone that made the fundraisers happen, and to Joe Nobiling, Information Management, for participating in the CFC as a loaned executive for the Corps. Without the efforts of these people, the campaign would've come to a standstill.

Next year's District CFC chair will be Stephen Russell, Programs and Project Management. I'm sure he will do an excellent job and work to positively impact even more people through charities with District contributions through the CFC. 🏗️



Percentage of Monetary Goal Achieved for 2003



Percentage of Participation Goal Achieved for 2003



# Fall Flood Exercise Vital to Success

By Mark Kane

Each spring, river towns around the country brace for a possible flood depending upon what Mother Nature decides to dole out in the form of melting snow and rain showers: The District is already preparing for those possibilities.

Every year, the District conducts an annual levee inspection/flood exercise in November, this year was no exception.

Rodney Delp, Emergency Management, said the Emergency Operations Center exercise is held to keep key personnel familiar with the Emergency Response and Recovery Operations.

"The exercise involves activating the EOC, Command and Control, the Crisis Management Team, Hydraulics Team and the Flood Area Engineer network," said Delp. "Flood Control Project inspections are conducted by the FAE and daily reports of these activities are posted to a

web-based EM flood-briefing site. Crisis Management Team members and staff are also required to post mock scenarios to the Flood Briefing Site each day. Daily briefings are conducted at 1 p.m. to brief Command and Control of all actions, activities and issues."

In addition to the exercise itself, there's a lot of preparation for the event. One challenge EM has is training individuals to conduct inspections. Some people may have the perception the District has employees serving as flood area engineers year-round, but that's not true.

"Assistant flood area engineers work one or two weeks in the fall for levee inspections and report development, however, during any flood event all FAEs are full-time responders," said Delp. "Lead flood-area engineers work several weeks during the fall for levee inspections and management of assistant FAEs. They

also work full-time during any flood event."

Delp said lead flood area engineers are selected by the Crisis Management Team and Emergency Management based on knowledge, skills and abilities. He said those that are interested in becoming a flood-area engineer might qualify.

"Prospective assistant FAE personnel can join a team with supervisor approval and self-nomination on the EM intranet home page at the Assistant FAE Team Application," said Delp.

Training new assistant flood-area engineers involves their assignment with a seasoned and experienced flood-area engineer for mentoring until knowledge, skills and abilities are gained said Delp. Emergency Management also conducts biennial flood-fight training for all flood-area engineers.

After the training is said and done an

Bert Eddy, commissioner, Louisa County Levee District Number 11, Darron Niles and Camie Knollenberg, Programs and Project Management, inspect an animal burrow on the landside of the Louisa County Levee District Number 11 Levee. These burrows can compromise the integrity of the levee. Photo by LaShell Tillman, Engineering Division.

Darron Niles and Bert Eddy inspect a drainage structure at Louisa County Levee District Number 11. Photo by Camie Knollenberg.



employee is ready to be an integral part of the exercise.

Each year's flood-area exercise is held to accomplish seven objectives:

- Re-establish public relations with our customers;
- Obtain information on project maintenance status;
- Expand levee Geographic Information Systems program/project utilization;
- Obtain customer feedback on Corps performance;
- Exercise communications from remote locations;
- Activate remote Emergency Operations Centers at Beardstown and Quincy, Ill.;
- Determine District staff element readiness status.

"The exercise generally goes well; however, we always find ways to improve our process," said Delp.

Delp said after-action reviews are conducted for the exercise and serve as a means for Emergency Management to address any issues that arise.

"Lessons learned will be incorporated into the Emergency Response and Recovery Plans to improve our District services," said Delp.

In a nutshell, this year's exercise was a success and for more than the usual reasons.

"Participation by the staff and the Crisis Management Team was excellent," said Delp. "This year we (EM, Information Management, and Kevin Carlock, Operations Division) introduced a new web-based briefing site that significantly improved the briefing process. We will be busy with follow-on actions to improve the briefing."

Delp said the information gained through this proactive effort is well worth

the challenges and expense it takes to make it happen.

"Emergency response is the crystal ball that the Corps cannot afford to drop," said Delp. "Keeping key personnel such as our Crisis Management Team, Hydraulics Team, and Flood-Area Engineer Network familiar with District emergency response procedures is vital to the success of the program. The Rock Island District is well known throughout the Corps as operating a very successful Emergency Response and Recovery Program." 🖱️



This year's flood brief can be accessed on Rocky through "Offices" - "EM" - "EM Flood Brief"

# American Bald Eagle Watch 2003-4 Schedule

**F**or centuries the majestic American Bald Eagle has been a symbol of strength and freedom. The locks and dam system on the Upper Mississippi River provide ideal feeding areas during the winter months for these birds.



## **Quad Cities Bald Eagle Days Quad City Conservation Alliance Exposition Center Jan. 10-11**

- Live eagle programs by the World Bird Sanctuary
- Wildlife art show and sale
- Environmental Fair
- Special guests – The International Wolf Center and Niabi Zoo
- Hours – 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Jan. 10 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on January 11th
- Admission - \$4 for adults and \$1 for children 16 and under
- For more information, call the Mississippi River Visitor Center at (309) 794-5338 or Dave Burrows at (309) 388-5464

## **Mississippi River Visitor Center Dec. 27 – Feb. 15 (Weekends Only)**

- Combination eagle watches and Clock Tower Tours.
- Hours are 9:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
- Group size limited, for reservations call (309) 794-5338

## **Dubuque Bald Eagle Days Jan. 10**

- Outdoor viewing at Lock and Dam 11 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Live bird program from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Exhibits from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Indoor location at Grand River Center - Port of Dubuque
- For more information call (563) 556-4372

## **Muscatine Bald Eagle Watch Jan. 17**

- Outdoor viewing at Riverview Center
- Live raptor programs at Riverview Center.
- For more information call (563) 263-7913





**Keokuk Bald Eagle Days  
Jan. 17 – 18**

- Indoor programs and environmental fair at Keosippi Mall in Keokuk, Iowa.
- Live eagle programs on Jan. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and on Jan 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Outdoor viewing at the South Side Boat Club
- For more information call (319) 524-5599

**Illinois Waterway Visitor Center Bald Eagle Watch, Ottawa, Ill.  
Jan. 24 - 25**

- "Live Eagle Program" by the Illinois Raptor Education Center will be on Jan. 24 and 25 at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. each day. Admission is free, but seating is limited. No reservations accepted, you must come to the visitor center to get tickets.
- Outdoor viewing at the visitor center 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- High-power scopes available for eagle viewing with park rangers and Audubon members on hand to answer questions.
- Children activities from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.
- For more information call (815) 667-4054

**Quincy Bald Eagle Watch  
Jan. 27**

- Outdoor viewing at Quincy City Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- For more information call (217) 228-0890

**Bald Eagle Days**

**Pella Community Center & Lake Red Rock  
Feb. 20 - 21**

- Feb. 20, area school children are invited to attend the programs, and on Feb. 21, the programs are open to the public
- Indoor presentations with live eagles and other birds of prey. Programs given on the hour at the Pella Community Center from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.
- Outdoor viewing is available in the wild at their feeding area below the Red Rock Dam. Follow the signs from the Community Center (please bring your binoculars)
- The Red Rock Visitor Center, located on the south end of the Red Rock Dam, will also be open to provide additional information about the program and lake area
- For more information call at (641) 828-7522 or (641) 628-8690

**Saylorville Lake Bald Eagle Watch  
Feb. 22**

- Outdoor viewing at the Saylorville Lake Visitor Center from noon to 4 p.m.
- Driving tour starting at visitor center, with four to five stops some of which will have presentations and displays
- Park rangers and volunteers will be available with spotting scopes
- For more information call (515) 276-4656 🏠



# A Corps Year to Remember

By Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers

The holidays are a time for remembering others and for giving to others.

This year, I want us to remember that there are many in our Corps of Engineers family who are serving in harm's way in Afghanistan and Iraq. They are giving an expensive gift ... willingly sacrificing their holiday with their families so that others who lived for decades under tyrannical rule might have a future of safety and freedom.

I'm enormously proud of them. They volunteered for an important cause, and they are doing excellent work under difficult circumstances.

Of course, Afghanistan and Iraq are not the only places where our Corps team members will spend the holidays. Our people are at work in 91 countries worldwide, and many of them will also be separated from their loved ones during the holidays.

Please take a few moments during these holidays to remember those in the Corps family who are serving overseas. If you are acquainted with some of them, please mail them a card or send them an e-mail letting them know that you're thinking about them, and that their service is appreciated.

I have also served overseas during the holidays under difficult conditions, and you can trust me on this ... in the situations that our people face in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere, simple gifts like those will be treasured.

For all of us, this has been a busy year. As in years past, the Corps of Engineers has taken part in events that made headlines and made a difference.

When the space shuttle Columbia burned up during re-entry, Corps people took part in the search in Texas and other states to find debris that helped piece together what happened to the spacecraft.

During Super Typhoon Pongsona on Guam, Hurricane Isabel on the East Coast, and the wildfires in California, Corps emergency teams were on the scene to fight the disasters, and to clean up afterwards.

Whether it is helping clear landmines in Afghanistan, or advising the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources in re-routing water to preserve the Marsh Arabs' way of life, or providing new facilities for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, this year, Corps people have continued making a difference in

America, and in the world.

The holidays are also a time to look to the future, and the Corps of Engineers' future is bright. The plans for USACE 2012

have been released and are now being implemented. People throughout the Corps are learning the basics of the Project Management Business Process, the cornerstone of the Corps' new way of doing business. And Corps people are learning the concepts of competitive sourcing, which will be our part in the President's Management Agenda.

These actions and others will give the



Corps of Engineers the best possible gift ... the ability to improve our service to the American people.

As always, I encourage all of you to take time off during this holiday season. Relax and have fun, and especially make time to enjoy your families.

My family and I wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season, and a happy, prosperous New Year.

Essayons! ■



# ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WINTER FIRES

**IN THE UNITED STATES, EACH YEAR FIRES OCCURRING DURING THE WINTER SEASON INJURE 2,600 INDIVIDUALS AND CAUSE MORE THAN \$930 MILLION IN DAMAGE.**

**A**s winter temperatures fall, the risk for fires goes up and brings a new set of hazards you need to be aware of. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, fires cause some 2,000 injuries and over \$500 million in damage each holiday season.

To prevent a fire, you need to understand how one is created. Fire requires three components—oxygen, fuel, and a heat source. Simply eliminating any one of these will prevent a fire. However, since oxygen exists naturally in the atmosphere, you need to concentrate on keeping fuel and heat sources apart. Heat can be produced by heaters, lights, appliances, or fire itself. Fuel is anything that will burn, including drapery, trash, dry wood, and even wires.

If you use a fireplace for heat, have your chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional to remove any creosote—the dark brown or black flammable tar that builds up inside the chimney. Using a metal-mesh fireplace screen will keep burning embers from flying out. When using artificial logs, follow the instructions closely and never burn trash, to include wrapping paper, in your fireplace.

Know the layout of your home. If you have a window above a heater, make sure the drapes don't touch it. When using a space heater, keep 3 feet between the heater and everything around it, including

furniture. Space heaters can be effective, but be careful and follow the manufacturers' instructions.

Long after the holiday gifts have been opened and the wrapping has been thrown away, many people continue to display their Christmas tree. To keep your tree fresh, keep it away from heat and make sure the stand is full of water. If you're displaying an artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant and kept away from heaters.

If you didn't test your holiday lights before using them, whether they are old or new, make sure you check each strand before you put them away to make sure the wires aren't frayed and the insulation is in good condition. Replace any lights that are missing or inoperable. As a rule of thumb, make sure more than three strands aren't linked together unless the manufacturer says it is safe to do so. Never leave your lights on unattended, and periodically check the wires—they should not be warm to the touch. Be careful not to overload electrical sockets (this rule holds true throughout the entire year.). Avoid using candles, but if you do, be very careful. Ensure they can't be tipped easily and never put them on a tree or leave your house while they're burning.

These tips are a starting point to heighten your household safety throughout the winter months. However, fire

prevention needs to be practiced year-round to be effective. Here are some suggested additions to your New Year's Resolutions:

- Make sure you have working smoke alarms on each floor of your home and located outside each sleeping area;
- Test the batteries in your smoke alarms each month, and change the batteries twice a year;
- Never leave the kitchen unattended when cooking, and avoid open flames when you're wearing loose clothing;
- Never overload electrical sockets;
- Plan and practice a fire escape plan with your family;
- Contact your local fire department concerning any special needs of family members and to have your fire escape plan reviewed;
- Most local or post fire departments will show you where to install smoke detectors in your home. Normally this is a free service;
- Keep a phone near your bed so you can call 911 in an emergency, and
- Think about fire prevention every day. ■

#### On the 'Net

[www.usfa.fema.gov/public/factsheets/holiday.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/public/factsheets/holiday.shtm)



# Corps Family Christmas Party

Photos by Mark Kane

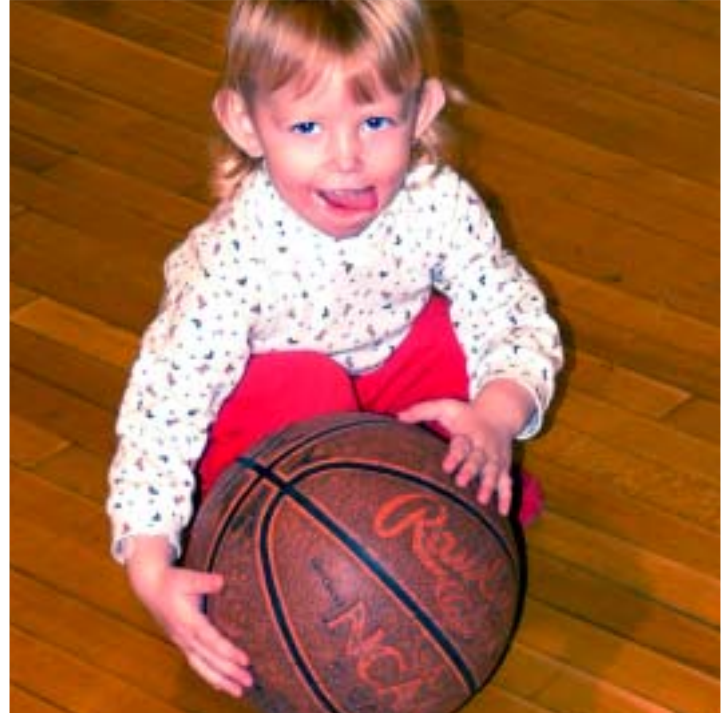
The kids came out in force Dec. 6 at the District's annual Corps Family Christmas Party to collect a gift from Santa Claus, eat and participate in the many events available for them at the Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center in Rock Island, Ill.

The Rock Island District Welfare Association sponsors the event, which features door prizes; a huge spread of holiday food, and events such as basketball, volleyball, swimming, and even rock climbing.

As usual, the highlight of the evening took place when Santa Claus arrived and gave out his bag of gifts.

Janel Schaeffer, Emergency Management, and son wait for the music to end while paying close attention to the numbers that could win them a prize.

This tot gives serious consideration to finding out what basketball is all about.





Two toddlers visit after opening up their gifts from Santa.

A winner of one of the event's games snaps up her prize.

One of the party's participants eyes up the next step on the rock-climbing wall.



Anticipation mounts as this youngster receives his gift from Santa.



# Investing In Our People

## Around the District

### District Commander's Award

**Terry Hoover**, Operations Division, received the August District Commander's Award.

Hoover, a navigation assistant on the Illinois Waterway, earned the award for saving the life of a man on a sinking boat Aug. 13.

After saving the man's life, Hoover towed the vessel to the nearest boat ramp, clearing the channel of the obstruction.

**John Punkiewicz**, Operations Division, received the July District Commander's Award.

Punkiewicz, an outdoor recreation planner, earned the award for his coordination and implementation of the Cold Weather Gear program for the District.

This effort required coordination with 32 field sites and numerous offices. He provided one-on-one customer service and ensured each individual order was accurately filled. When a deficiency was later discovered in the product supplied by the uniform contractor, Punkiewicz coordinated the return of all the items and was instrumental in facilitating a second ordering process with Contracting and a new vendor.

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### Recent Retirements ...

**Dale Fatlan**, lock and dam operator, Brandon Road Lock and Dam, Operations Division, will retire Jan. 3, after dedicating 33 years and four months to the federal government.

**Leonard Hebler**, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 13, Operations Division, will retire Jan. 3, after dedicating 34 years and five months to the federal government.

**Ernest Jackson, Jr.**, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 13, Operations Division, will retire Jan. 3, after dedicating 39 years and eight months to the federal government.

**Joseph Raoul, Jr.**, chief, Engineering Division, will retire Jan. 3, after dedicating 36 years to the federal government.

**Edward Bruss**, park ranger, Dubuque Ranger Station, Natural Resource Management Section, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired Dec. 3, after dedicating 30 years to the federal government.

**Don Jensen**, lock and dam operator, Dresden Island Lock and Dam, Operations Division, retired Dec. 1, after dedicating 28 years and 10 months to the federal government.

**Otto (Bud) Marion**, general maintenance supervisor, Maintenance Section, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired Dec. 1, after dedicating 34 years and 10 months to the federal government.

**Joseph Cotton, Jr.**, lock and dam operator, Brandon Road Lock and Dam, retired Nov. 30, after dedicating 13 years and three months to the federal government.

### Congrats ...



Congratulations to **Tom and Jeanne Nock**, Engineering Division, on the birth of a baby girl, Renee Lizzie, Dec. 10. She weighed 7 pounds and 9 ounces, and was 19 inches long.



Congratulations to **Brian and Robin Astifan**, Engineering Division, on the birth of a baby boy, Ethan Matthew, Nov. 16. He weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces, and was 19½ inches long.

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### Sympathy ...



**Charles "Chuck" St. John**, 76, of Morning Sun, Iowa, formerly of the Quad-Cities area and Oquawka, Ill., died Oct. 7, at Morning Sun Care Center, Morning Sun.

St. John worked with the District at Lock and Dam 18 and retired from the Corps of Engineers in 1982.

**Francis Frank**, 74, of Oquawka, Ill., died July 1, at Cottage Hospital in Galesburg, Ill.

Frank worked for the District at Lock and Dam 18 and retired from the Corps of Engineers in 1988.

He served in the Army for four years, during which he served in the Berlin Air Lift.

## Notes from the Mississippi\*

### *Lock and Dam 11, Dubuque, Iowa*

- ✓ Lock handrail repaired.
- ✓ Photos taken of security fence preconstruction area.

### *Lock and Dam 12, Bellevue, Iowa*

- ✓ Concrete placed for new picnic table area.
- ✓ Number 7 tainter gate control switch repaired.

### *Lock and Dam 13, Fulton, Ill.*

- ✓ Pool mooring cell pressure washed and painted.
- ✓ Handle for traveling kevel fabricated.

### *Locks and Dam 14, Le Claire, Iowa*

- ✓ Parking lot restriping completed.
- ✓ Roller-gate bulkheads set and chains oiled.

### *Locks and Dam 15, Rock Island, Ill.*

- ✓ Bonnet bolts checked and tightened.
- ✓ Redwood trim on all control stands stained and waterproofed.

### *Lock and Dam 16, Muscatine, Iowa*

- ✓ Birdhouses cleaned, repaired, painted, and stored for winter.
- ✓ Pontoon starter repaired.

### *Lock and Dam 17, New Boston, Ill.*

- ✓ Stands for wind socks completed.
- ✓ Upper transition-wall handrail repaired.

### *Lock and Dam 18, Gladstone, Ill.*

- ✓ Broken guard-rail posts replaced.
- ✓ Timbers and gravel put down along new fence line.

### *Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, Iowa*

- ✓ Miter-gate joints sealed.
- ✓ Removable fence sections on upper guide wall cleaned and lubed.

### *Lock and Dam 20, Canton, Mo.*

- ✓ Lower haulage unit repaired.
- ✓ Safety blocks and life rings replaced.
- ✓ Lock-wall lights repaired.

### *Lock and Dam 21, Quincy, Ill.*

- ✓ Land-wall light bulbs replaced.
- ✓ Jib cranes load tested.
- ✓ Land-wall ladder rung repaired.

### *Lock and Dam 22, Saverton, Mo.*

- ✓ Oil samples taken on all valves and miter gates.
- ✓ Upper guide-wall outdraft sign removed.

\*This is a small sample of work completed at District locks and dams throughout the month.

## Speakers Bureau

By Shannan Walsten, Public Affairs

**Gail Clingerman**, Programs and Project Management, and **Julie Fisher**, Engineering Division, hosted job shadow student, Jessica Ann Zimmerman, at the Mississippi River Visitor Center on Oct. 24.

**Ron Deiss**, Programs and Project Management, spoke about the button industry with more than 20 elementary students at the Bluff Elementary After-School Program on Nov. 13, in Clinton, Iowa.

Permit requirements were the topic of discussion when **Donna Jones**, Operations Division, spoke with more than 50 commissioners and landowners at the Illinois Association of Drainage Districts' meeting on Nov. 17, in Sycamore, Ill.

On Nov. 20, rangers at the Mississippi River Visitor Center and **Kevin Landwehr**, Engineering Division, hosted a job-shadow student, Tyson Rush from Aledo High School, Aledo, Ill.

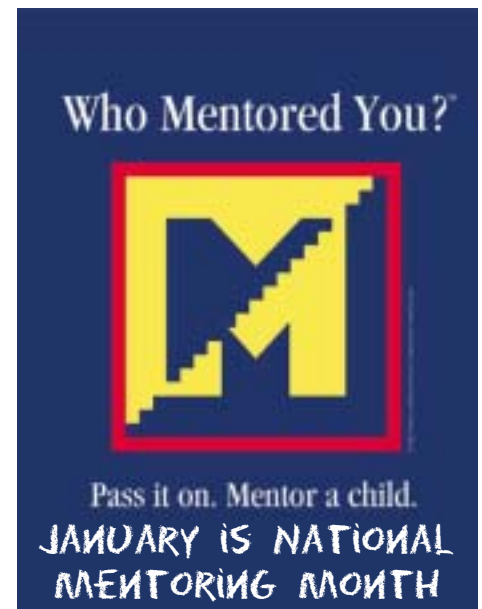
Erie High School Student, John Hayes, who was interested in environmental engineering, job-shadowed **Bob Hoffman**,

Engineering Division, on Nov. 20.

Four Webelos of the Holy Family Boy Scout Troop Pack 241 were entertained by **Jim Abbitt**, Engineering Division, on Dec. 8. Surveying was the topic of discussion.

On Dec. 11, **Charlene Carmack**, Programs and Project Management, spoke about mussels with more than 20 elementary students at the Bluff Elementary After-School Program in Clinton, Iowa.

The Speakers Bureau is part of the District's outreach program. Through these programs, employees work to foster positive relations between the community and the Corps. Contact with our public provides an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the District's role in our communities, the Midwest and the nation. District employees interested in these outreach opportunities can learn more by visiting our website at [www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/CommunityRelations.htm](http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/CommunityRelations.htm) or by contacting Justine Barati at ext. 5204. 📧



### On the 'Net



[www.WhoMentoredYou.org](http://www.WhoMentoredYou.org)

[www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org)

# USACE 2012 and Us

USACE 2012 is the way the Corps will be organized in the years to come. We've been studying the tenets of the Project Management Business Process over the past few years in order to operate in a more business like manner. We have been moving our divisions and districts toward operating like a Regional Business Center.

We discovered we had a great opportunity to make changes that would affect more than just the bottom line management costs at the headquarters and division levels. We could organize into teams so that we could provide more collaborative solutions to the complex problems we have to solve and we would also reduce process time within the organization.

For more in-depth information, the entire USACE 2012 plan is available at [www.usace.army.mil/stakeholders](http://www.usace.army.mil/stakeholders).

What are the "added value" reasons to implement?

- More disciplines on the team will provide more robust and comprehensive solutions that do not have unintended consequences.
- Vertical team involvement will resolve issues early on rather than during a review process at the end.
- Communities of Practice will make visible and available the best experts across the Corps (and the world) to provide solutions to complex problems.
- Capturing lessons learned will mean less time and money expended on repeat mistakes.

What will we sacrifice in order to benefit from doing this?

For some period, there will be a transition to the new way of business. Until the concepts are understood, some will want to go back to their old way of doing business. Forming new teams always takes time.



# DISTRICTS

Aligning the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Success in the 21st Century!