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Rock Island District

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Spotlight on the District

Lilliam "Lily" Quiñones

Executive Assistant

Story and photo by Mark Kane

When a person takes on a new job, they can expect it to be challenging; and if that job is in a different location, a change in scenery, but for the District's newest executive assistant the change is extreme to say the least.

Lilliam Quiñones, who goes by Lily, is originally from Aibonito, Puerto Rico, and relocated to the Quad-City area from Miami, Fla., to become the District's executive assistant.

Before coming to the District, Quiñones served in the military, which included service in the Puerto Rico National Guard for three-and-a-half years, before she joined the ranks of active duty service, where she served more than 20 additional years.

"I was stationed in Stuttgart and Garmisch, Germany; Fort Clayton and Quarry Heights in Panama; North Island Naval Base in San Diego, Calif.; and I had the

chance to travel extensively throughout Europe and Latin America on official business," said Quiñones. "I only wish it could have been while I was on vacation."

Quiñones said it has been a challenge leaving the military behind, but taking a job with the Corps is what she's wanted to do for a couple different reasons.

"My transition from the military was a long process," said Quiñones. "I re-

searched a lot of organizations, both private and public, and the Corps was one of the top five in my 'good to work with' organization list. The history and stability in this organization is superior to any other, and I'm just one of the lucky few who get to work with such an important entity."

what she enjoys most about it, but she has a prediction.

"Having always been a social bee, I will bet that the interaction with customers, stakeholders and the District employees will be right on the top of the list," said Quiñones.

Quiñones said as far as hobbies she loves to travel, eat, cook, dance salsa and play the saxophone, "in that exact order."

Quiñones is married and has a daughter.

"I have been married to my husband Nelson Quiñones for the past 21-plus years, but if you asked him, he will tell you that it feels like a century," said Quiñones. "We have a daughter, Erika Yahaira, who is pursuing a music degree in college. She is a very talented singer, musician and model. In other words, any father's nightmare and any mother's pride. The rest of our family still lives in Puerto Rico."

Quiñones' advice to anyone reading this article

is, "For me, life is like a mountain top that has lots of trails leading toward it. You can take an easy trail or a difficult one ... that is your choice. Take your time taking everything and everyone into consideration before you take a trail. Come to terms with your decision and embark on the journey, remember that once you reach the top, there's nothing you can do, but look back and reminisce." ■



As for her new job, Quiñones said most of her responsibilities are closely tied to the commander's agenda.

"At this time, I'm kind of shadowing him," said Quiñones. "I'm learning as much as I can about his responsibilities, the District's programs, and the Corps' 'modus operandi.'"

While Quiñones is still adjusting to her new job, she said it's hard for her to say

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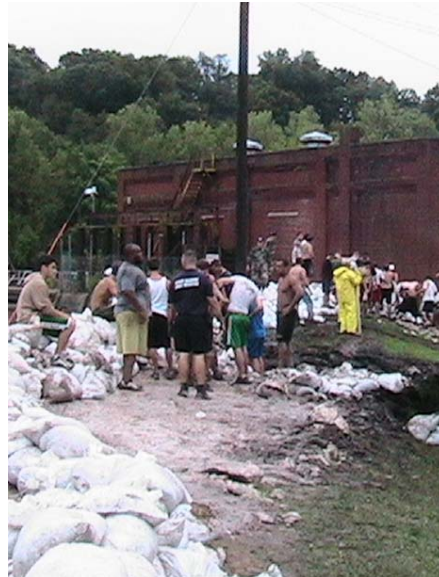
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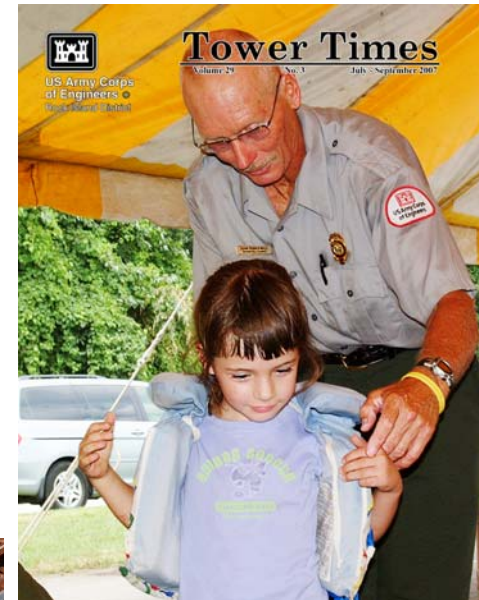
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John Punkiewicz demonstrates how a lifejacket designed for a person up to 50 pounds still doesn't fit this young girl. He stressed that other factors such as height must be taken into account to determine what size a lifejacket needs to be to fit a person. Photo by Mark Kane. See page 9 for story.

District employees, spouses, and friends, man the telephone banks for the 2007 MDA Labor Day Telethon. Pictured participants include (left section, top to bottom) Terry Hoover, Eric Johnson, Al Frohlich, Mark Cornish, Andrew Leichty, Sara Paxson, Beth Hann, Donna Hardy; and (right section, top to bottom) Col. Robert Sinkler, Brandie Sinkler, Dave Bequeaith, Darron Niles, Micaela Terronez, Angelina Maldonado, Nikole Lambach, and Vicky Terronez. Photo by Donna Jones, Operations Division.



Employees Take Pledges for Muscular Dystrophy Association

By Mark Kane

This year marked the 42nd time celebrity Jerry Lewis has held a telethon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and this year, like most, he was consumed by emotion by the support, pledges, and contributions that came in during the Labor Day Weekend event and added up to more than \$63.8 million worldwide.

Raising that kind money came at the hands of thousands of volunteers, which included manning telephones and taking pledges.

Some of those volunteers came from right here in the District, and for the last 11 years Donna Jones, Operations Division, has been coordinating and rallying employees to participate in the annual event.

Jones said 14 employees participated this year, which she said is good considering the local telethon recently reduced their phone bank.

"The MDA used to have a 20-phone bank, but cut back to a 16-phone bank a few years ago," said Jones. "We used to have around 18-20 Corps employees each year with the remainder of the volunteers comprised of friends or relatives of the employees. Now, we usually get around 12-15 employees and add friends and relatives to make up the balance."

Jones said prior to 1997 she would

watch the telethon off and on during Labor Day and noticed various Corps personnel assisting throughout the day.

"No acknowledgement or recognition of the Corps' involvement was made," said Jones. "When I inquired why we didn't just have all the volunteers fill the bank for a full shift, I was told someone would have to organize it. In 1997, I contacted the MDA and started the tradition of the Corps filling the first telephone bank shift. It used to be Monday morning from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. A few years ago, the local coverage was expanded to Sunday evening and the Corps was given first option on the slot from 10 p.m. to midnight. The Corps continues to kick off the local coverage by filling the Sunday evening slot."

Coordinating, volunteering, and being involved in the production of the annual MDA telethon has become a District tradition that Jones says makes a difference.


"Volunteering has given me the opportunity to observe the processes first-hand and understand the coordination involved the day of the telethon," said Jones.

"There is a lot of work that is done beforehand that we never see. I encourage everyone to contribute to community activities and to make a difference."

This year, the District's Commanding

Officer, Robert Sinkler, participated in the event along with his wife Brandie. Sinkler and 13 other employees, family, and friends volunteered their time and manned the telethon phone banks. Those employees included Donna Hardy, Donna Jones, Al Frohlich, Terry Hoover, Carol Shafer, Vicky Terronez, Operations Division; Mark Cornish, Andrew Leichty, and Darron Niles, Programs and Project Management; Dave Bequeaith and Eric Johnson, Engineering and Construction; Beth Hann, Resource Management; and Sara Paxson, Strategic Planning. Other participants included area students Micaela Terronez, the daughter of Vicky Terronez; Nikole Lambach and Angelina Maldonado.

The MDA Labor Day Telethon is the single most important fundraising event of the year for MDA. Funds raised help the association carry on its fight against more than 40 neuromuscular diseases, including a worldwide program of basic and applied research, a nationwide network of medical and support services, and professional and public education.

Jerry Lewis has been MDA's number-one volunteer for more than 50 years. Despite battling debilitating pulmonary fibrosis, severe back pain, and a heart attack in recent years, the MDA national chairman has never missed a telethon. 



District Participates in Art Exhibition

Story and photo by Mark Kane

The Corps of Engineers, through the coordination of the Rock Island District, is adding to an international art exhibition community-wide project titled Coexistence: The Art of Living Together, at least while it's here in the Quad-Cities. The exhibition consists of 45 giant outdoor art panels that are traveling the world, which were initiated and created by the Museum on the Seam in Jerusalem and encourages dialogue between people of all races, faiths and cultures.

The Corps added a banner to the 45 thought-provoking images, which are on display in Davenport, Iowa, Aug. 31 through Sept. 27, and can be seen at the Figge Art Museum, West 2nd Street, and LeClaire Park. The Corps' addition to the exhibit is located beside the dam at Locks and Dam 15 on the Iowa side and on the Mississippi Riverfront Trail. The trail is a prominent one in the area and part of the national north-south Mississippi River Trail and/or the cross-country American Discovery Trail, which cross each other within a stone's throw of the Corps' banner.

Angie Freyermuth, outreach specialist, Programs and Project Management; and Justine Barati, community relations, Corporate Communications, both coordinated through Allan Ross, executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities, to fulfill

a request from the Riverboat Development Authority.

Mary Ellen Chamberlin, president, Riverboat Development Authority, thought the Quad-Cities could add to the exhibit through the use of images which reflect the coexistence between the environment, people and the river.

Freyermuth said she and Barati took on the challenge for the Corps, created the design to meet Chamberlin's request, and worked through Ross to make the banner happen and to get it posted near Dam 15.

The Quad Cities is the only Midwestern stop for the exhibit this year. The exhibit was last in the Midwest in 2004 in Minneapolis/St. Paul. The Quad Cities is the smallest community to host the internationally acclaimed exhibit of 45 panels of art each measuring 9'x15'.

"This exhibit only travels to major international cities," said Ross. "It's quite a feat to get this project to our community. The Riverboat Development Authority has graciously stepped up to become the exhibit sponsor. I'm pleased the RDA board saw the value of this project for educating adults, school children and visitors to our area."

An estimated 25,000+ visitors are expected to come to the exhibit, including more than 10,000 students. There will be

opportunities for school groups to visit or explore the topic of coexistence in their classrooms. Part of the funding being sought for the project will pay for busing underprivileged children and adults to the exhibit and busing underfunded school groups to the exhibit.

According to the curator, Raphie Etgar, "It involves changing our lives and changing the way we think. Coexistence is not necessarily learning to live together, but perhaps learning to live side by side."

The images on the 45 panels were created by 43 artists from all over the world, highlighting in a creative way the art of living together. The exhibit was originally on display in Jerusalem in 2001. Since then, it has traveled to 27 major cities around the world including Berlin, Amsterdam, Belfast, Sarajevo, Zurich, Cape Town, Washington D.C., Minneapolis/St. Paul and Buenos Aires. ■



The Corps' banner and contribution to the Coexistence exhibit can be seen displayed in Davenport on the fence beside the Mississippi Riverfront Trail outside of Dam 15 close to the Rock Island Arsenal Government Bridge.

District Assists Iowa, Illinois Communities During Flood Fight

By Mark Kane

The remnants of tropical storm Erin combined with a stalled frontal weather boundary, which produced heavy rainfall in the Upper Mississippi River Basin in late August. As a result, significant rises were recorded on most tributaries and mainstem rivers in the Rock Island District.

Officials in Iowa and Illinois requested assistance from the District in multiple communities to help in flood-fighting efforts.

Sarah Jones, Emergency Management, reported that a total of 11 flood area engineers and two liaisons from the District were dispatched to the field in support of flood-fighting efforts in Iowa and Illinois.

Equipment and flood-fighting materials dispatched from the District included more than 27,000 sandbags, 25 trash pumps, and 10 rolls of plastic sheeting.

Affected communities that received equipment and flood-fighting supplies included Andalusia, Milan, Rock Island, Hillsdale, Erie, Coal Valley, and DeKalb, Ill., and Boone, Humboldt, Moorland, Cherokee, and Birmingham, Iowa. Pumps and sandbags were pre-positioned at Saylorville Lake for communities around Des Moines.

One of the areas close to Des Moines, which drew a lot of concern was Fort Dodge, Iowa. Area residents in Webster County, Iowa, battled to stop the flow of water, which had overtopped a levee after heavy rains brought the water level of the Des Moines River over its banks. The river, which flows through Fort Dodge, had been swelling for days and on Aug. 22. It found a low-lying area and moved in alongside an old abandoned hydroelectric dam.

Three of the 11 flood-area engineers from the District were dispatched to the Des Moines area.

One of the District's flood-area engineers dispatched was Tom Heinold, Engineering and Construction. He was one of the first to deploy to the area.

"This wasn't like a 'typical' Mississippi mainstem flood fight, where the crest is foreseeable a week or more out," said Heinold.

"The rain fell fast, and the short time to concentration in relatively small drainage basins caused the rivers and streams to rise extremely quickly."

Heinold said one of the challenges he found that, as in other flood fights, it was difficult for people to distinguish between a flood-control dam such as those found at the District's reservoirs, and a navigation or hydropower dam, like the one at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

"People thought that if the hydropower dam gates were opened, there would be significant additional flooding downstream," said Heinold. "It was a constant effort to explain to people that the water levels immediately downstream of the dam might increase slightly for a very short time (minutes) after a dam gate was opened, but the water-surface profile at the next town more than a few miles downstream wouldn't have a measurable increase."

Heinold said the City of Fort Dodge and other surrounding communities did a superb job in the initial flood fight.

"Iowa Central College's sports team had a different sort of a workout, Aug. 22, as they filled and placed sandbags," said Heinold.

"The city engineer at Fort Dodge, Eldon Rossow, and the city manager, Dave Fierke, exhibited strong leadership and sound decision-making skills at the critical time. They mobilized the right resources at the right time and averted a disaster. Another thing ... everyone involved at the local, city and county level that I dealt with in the Emergency Operations Center and out in the field cooperated magnificently. Often times when there is a crisis situation, tempers run hot, but everyone that I worked with kept a level head and, above all, maintained a very positive attitude."

During a flood fight many flood area engineers can find themselves coordinating and communicating with high level

"This wasn't like a typical Mississippi mainstem flood fight, where the crest is foreseeable a week or more out."

Students from Iowa Central College heavily augment Fort Dodge flood-fighting efforts by sandbagging near an old abandoned hydroelectric dam in Fort Dodge, Iowa, Aug. 22. Two of the flood gates on the dam, seen in the background, were opened to lower the water level behind the dam. The water began flowing over the levee earlier in the morning threatening homes in low-lying areas nearby. Photo by Tom Heinold, Engineering and Construction.



officials, and this event wasn't any different. Heinold said the officials he had contact with had high regard for the work being done by the Corps to assist communities fighting floods.

"I had the honor of briefing Iowa Gov. Chet Culver and Iowa Congressman Tom Latham on Thursday, Aug. 23," said Heinold. "They both recognized the Corps' efforts and thanked us for being there. The City of Fort Dodge was very thankful for the technical assistance and offer of sandbags and plastic to aid in their flood fight. Other local representatives in Clare, Moorland, Callender, Humboldt, Boone and Cherokee, Iowa, also thanked us for making site assessments and issuing badly needed pumps

that kept basements dry, sewers operating, and some roads and critical infrastructure open. The County Emergency Operations Center personnel appreciated having me on hand to explain about how floods act, interpret the great information gathering and analysis tools that we have (such as rivergages.com and other National Weather Service products), visit flooded locations to perform assessments and offer advice, and keep the entire multi-level team informed about current and projected conditions."

Heinold said that the experience started quickly, kept him engaged, and then ended as quickly as it started.

"After I was dragged out of a training class on Wednesday morning, Aug. 22, and thrust into this situation so suddenly, I spent three hectic days assisting our friends in northwest Iowa, and continued to track other events in southeastern Iowa through another flood-area engineer, Kirk Sunderman, who was deployed to my (Des Moines Basin) area to assist, since I was already fully engaged in the Fort Dodge area," said Heinold. "At the end of those three days, the mission ended about as suddenly as it started ... there came a point when there were no more

sites to visit, everyone who needed a pump had one, everyone had enough sandbags and plastic, and all the river and stream gages started dropping. I was calling everyone I had met over the last several days to ask if there was any other assistance I could offer, and the answer was always, "you've done so much for us, and we're sure glad you were here, but I think that we have everything we need -- thanks!"

The flood-area engineers who were deployed in support of flood-fighting efforts included Scott Bullock, John Ellerhoff, Tom Dumoulin, Tom Heinold, Toby Hunemuller, Bob Riebe, Kirk Sunderman, Engineering and Construction; James Dunkin, John Holt, Gregory Reyes, Operations Division; and Kevin Marker, Real Estate. The two liaisons were Perry Hubert, Engineering and Construction, who was deployed to the Iowa Emergency Operations Center in Des Moines; and Mike Zerbonia, Operations Division, was deployed to the Illinois Emergency Operations Center in Springfield, Ill.

Rodney Delp, Emergency Management, said all the employees who were involved in the District's support to flooded communities, those deployed or those coordinating efforts from the Clock Tower Building, did a good job.

"Disaster recovery efforts were coordinated in the Emergency Operations Center, located at the District headquarters," said Delp. "The EOC was fully staffed to support the emergency responders who deployed to the field. Aside from the full-time Emergency Management staff, the EOC included District logistics and operations personnel. Field responders included members of the Des Moines, Waterloo, Rockford, Dresden, and Quad-City Flood-Area Teams. The Crisis Management Team was used to provide resources and command and control. Col. Robert Sinkler and Lt. Col. Michael Clarke were involved with the recovery effort from the beginning of the event and provided excellent leadership. All requests for assistance from cities, counties, and states were handled immediately, resulting in complimentary feedback for the Corps' response." ■

like a 'typical' mainstream flood the crest is fore-or more out."

- Tom Heinold

A boat is seen lodged in the number 11 roller bay of the dam at Locks and Dam 15 after an Aug. 26 rescue took place. Several lines tethering the boat to dam were installed by the District on Aug. 28 to keep the boat from drifting further back toward the roller gate.



Couple Rescued, Boat at Locks and Dam 15

Story and photo by Mark Kane

A site that most hope is a very rare one could be seen in front of the dam at Locks and Dam 15 ... a boat precariously docked approximately seven feet in front of the dam on the Iowa side of the river.

While it may have looked like someone made an outrageous choice as to where to park their boat, the reality behind it is a lot scarier.

At dinner time on Sunday, Aug. 26, a couple found themselves in their boat drifting toward the dam, because the rope on their anchor had become entangled in the engine's propeller.

Jeffry Bromwell, lockman, Locks and Dam 15, received a call from them with the information and assessed they were quickly headed into the dam.

"I called 911 and requested they send someone to man the boat for a rescue into the dam," said Bromwell. "I asked Virgil Johnson and Mike Crane, Rock Island Arsenal Bridge employees, to grab their ring buoys and head to the Iowa side."

At the same time, a southbound tow, the Motor Vessel Cleva Lee piloted by Capt. Walt Basso, was getting ready to assist the M/V City of Nathey into Lock 15. Basso asked Bromwell if they could help.

"I said yes, but I doubted he could catch them before they got to the bridge," said Bromwell.

Bromwell said he told the couple to put on their lifejackets and to stand by to grab the safety blocks on the 'last chance' ropes hanging from the government bridge. He said he thought they might be able to tie off quickly as they were going by. After that he said he didn't hear anything else from them.

"I thought they were still in the boat when Walt called me and said they were hanging on the lines hanging from the bridge and that the fire rescue was at the bridge," said Bromwell. "The Arsenal rescue boat was there in a couple of minutes and was able to retrieve the two people hanging from the lines and returned to the Arsenal dock."

Steve Felderman, lockmaster, Locks and Dam 15, said the boat couldn't be moved until the river level had decreased from the recent rise, which took place due to increased rainfall in the Midwest in recent weeks.

Felderman said lines had been tied to the boat to ensure it was secured away from the dam and that it wouldn't drift directly into the roller if the debris keeping it from doing so were to dislodge.

On Oct. 4, the boat was successfully removed from the number 11 roller bay and the watercraft sustained little damage.

Felderman also said everyone involved in the boaters rescue did a great job.

"It could have been a fatal outcome, but everyone reacted quickly and did an incredible job," said Felderman. "I talked to the boaters, and it has really sunk in how lucky they were. They were really shaken up by it, and they know they could have been killed."

On the Upper Mississippi River, boats are not allowed in the 600-foot area upriver from the dam, which makes the restricted area. It is unknown if the boaters had breached that area before their boat motor's propeller had become disabled.

The rescue at Locks and Dam 15 was the fourth to take place at one of the District's lock and dams this summer. The other rescues took place at Lock and Dam 13 on March 23, Lock and Dam 22 on June 4, and Lock and Dam 18 on June 28. District lockmen involved in each one of those rescues did what it took to save the lives of those who found themselves in a perilous and life-threatening situation. An article with additional information detailing those rescues will be written and published in the near future. ■

Water Safety Emphasized at National Marina Day Event

John Punkiewicz demonstrates how this lifejacket fits on a young volunteer the way it was designed to fit. He stressed that other factors such as height must be taken into account to determine what size a lifejacket needs to be to fit a person.



Story and photos by Mark Kane

John Punkiewicz, Operations Division, presented a hands-on water-safety presentation, which involved numerous members of the public during the Corps' part in National Marina Day, celebrated at Sunset Marina in Rock Island, Ill., Aug. 11.

Punkiewicz first spoke about the importance of water safety by highlighting tragic area fatalities, which have taken place this summer. He explained how they could have been avoided and how diligent everyone needs to be when it comes to being safe around water.

"It's really unfortunate and tragic that we've had the fatalities we have had on our waterways this summer," said Punkiewicz. "These people could still be alive if they would have been wearing a lifejacket."

Asking everyone to wear their lifejacket is a reoccurring theme with the Corps and is the foundation of the water safety program administered by the Corps.

Punkiewicz not only stressed the importance of wearing a lifejacket around water, but used a unique demonstration to show how important it is to wear the right kind of floatation device and that it fits.

The demonstration involved eight members, each sitting on a chair with a floatation device underneath it. While some members were able to fit into the device underneath their chair, others could not fit into the floatation they found. This quickly demonstrated how important it can be to not only have a floatation device close, but to have one that fits.

National Marina Day is the brainchild of BoatU.S.

"Marinas are more than just a locally-run business. They are invaluable to the boating lifestyle and fulfill a critical need by providing waterway access and boating services," said Jim Schofield, director of the Cooperating Marina Program and 2007 National Marina Day Committee Member. "This event gives us an opportunity to share with town leaders how a marina contrib-

utes economically and allows a community to enjoy the water," said Schofield.

The goal of National Marina Day is the education of politicians, civic leaders and the public about the important role the marina industry plays in cities and towns across the nation as family-friendly gateways to boating and stewards of the environment.

The National Marina Day activities at Sunset Marina were created to show off the marina and the public works department. Other activities that took place included dock tours, a Boaters Advisory Committee meeting, a display of the public works equipment, demonstration of water rescue by the fire department, and a police K-9 unit demonstration. ■

Hannel Earns Corps' Regulator of the Year

By Mark Kane

The Corps awarded Wayne Hannel, Operations Division, the Don Lawyer Outstanding Regulator Award, which recognizes him as the Regulator of the Year for the Corps of Engineers. The biennial award is the highest regulatory recognition a Corps employee can receive, which recognizes individuals for their superiority in the field of regulatory operations, and their contribution to maintaining the integrity of the regulatory program.

Hannel received the award Aug. 20 at the Corps' National Regulatory Conference held in Buffalo, N.Y. Chip Smith, Policy and Legislative Group, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), presented the award to Hannel.

Hannel earned the award for his work in protecting the aquatic environment. He adopted a communicative approach to dealing with significant permit applicants and key stakeholders, while building trust and positive relationships with them.

For more than a decade, Hannel consistently earned high performance appraisals and exceeded the Regulatory Branch's overall level of productivity, while resolving extremely controversial environmental matters in a way that met the public interest.

"I have been working in the regulatory program for over 29 years," said Hannel. "I have always strived to do my best for the customer – getting them an answer as efficiently as possible."

Specifically, Hannel resolved sunken barge issues, led the review of a major water-supply reservoir requiring an Environmental Impact Statement and effectively dealt with politically controversial projects.

The nomination package stated Hannel led the District, and possibly the nation, in the review of 'nutrient farming' proposals which require the assessment of complex new technology and complex water quality and land use considerations.

Despite his accomplishments and achievements, Hannel didn't know what was waiting for him at the conference, until he saw the program for the evening's events.

"I was not aware that I was being nominated for the award," said Hannel. "The Rock Island management team kept that a secret. I found out about two hours before the awards banquet



that I had been nominated and was one of the eight finalists. I found out as I was looking over some of the handouts that I had picked up at the conference registration. Knowing that there were a number of fine regulators across the country, I didn't really consider that I would be selected for the award.

"It is indeed very satisfying just to be nominated for such a prestigious award," said Hannel. "There are many fine regulators in our program throughout the country. Just to be nominated by one's District is an honor in itself. And being selected by the Division and being a finalist for the award is even more of an honor. Being recognized in front of the Regulatory managers from across the country was very special.

"I congratulate all the other nominees for the award," said Hannel. "They are all winners for their many contributions to the regulatory program."



The Don Lawyer Regulator of the Year award was instituted in 1986 and recognizes superior achievement by a non-supervisory division or district employee. The award was named after Don Lawyer, a dedicated Corps regulatory program coordinator. ■

Congressional Members Speak at Locks and Dam 15

Story and photo by Mark Kane

U.S. Sens. Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) participated in a press conference hosted Aug. 14, by Waterways Council, Inc., at Locks and Dam 15 to provide their perspective on the passage of the Water Resources Development Act and the importance they

that the bill authorizing the modernization of seven locks along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers, which also includes funds for environmental restoration, will pass.

Harkin said passing the 2007 WRDA is an important step forward in making the lock and dam system more efficient.

The WRDA hasn't been renewed since 2000. When the original act was passed in 1986, lawmakers envisioned it would be renewed every two years. The main purpose is to authorize projects by the Corps that reduce the threat of floods and improve navigation.

Durbin said in the seven years since a WRDA has been passed, 'the infrastructure hasn't been waiting. It's been deteriorating.'

One reason the bill has taken so long is because environmental groups originally opposed much of the lock expansion

projects, said Durbin. But now, ecological restoration is a part of the bill.

"In the end, we want to make sure this river is better off and not worse off with all this traffic," said Durbin. "We reached an agreement. I think it's a responsible agreement."

Leslie Spraggins, Iowa state director of the Nature Conservancy, said the ecological restoration includes plans for floodplain reconnection that will allow shallow flooding on a controlled basis for spawning fish and shore bird migration. It also includes habitat restoration and fish passages.

The lock modernization portion of the bill will improve the efficiency of waterway navigation, said Paul Rohde, vice president of the Midwest Area of Waterways Council, Inc. More than half of the nation's 240 lock chambers are beyond their 50-year design lives. Much of the system was built in the 1930s.

If the WRDA is approved, the next step will be to secure funding. The actual construction projects will take another 10 to 15 years to complete.

Amy Rausch, Rock Island Argus/ Moline Dispatch; and Ed Tibbetts, Quad-City Times, contributed to this article.



Sen. Tom Harkin speaks with the media at Locks and Dam 15 about the Water Resources Development Act and his thoughts on its importance. Sen. Dick Durbin listens to Harkin before sharing his thoughts on WRDA.

believe the legislation will have to the Midwest and the nation.

Both Harkin and Durbin were optimistic

District Employees Receive Army Superior Unit Award

By Mark Kane

The Rock Island District officially pinned on the Army Superior Unit Award during an award ceremony held at the Clock Tower Building on Aug. 13, as Col. Robert Sinkler, commanding officer, ceremoniously pinned the award on the District's most senior civilian employee, Gary Loss, deputy for Programs and Project Management.

The award will now be dispersed throughout the District to every employee who was working for the Corps between June 1, 2004, and April 15, 2006, for the Corps' response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma. It was approved by the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army for the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for those who were working for the Corps during that time period.

Sinkler and Lt. Col. Michael Clarke, deputy commanding officer, both emphasized during the award ceremony how rare it is for a government agency, primarily of civilians, to receive a unit award. They both commended the District for its role in the Corps' response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma.

The award employees will be receiving will come in the form of a lapel pin and is authorized for wear by all Soldiers and Civilians who

were assigned during the specified dates to Headquarters, divisions, districts, centers, labs, and the 249th Engineer Battalion (Prime Power).

The ASUA lapel pin is authorized for issue and wear by Civilians employed by the Corps. Those employed by the Corps during the cited period may wear the lapel pin permanently. Those employed by the Corps after the cited period may wear the lapel pin temporarily, as long as they remain with the Corps.

Soldiers assigned to the Corps during that time may wear the award permanently. Soldiers assigned or attached to the Corps after the approved period are only authorized to wear the award temporarily, until they depart the Corps.

Soldiers will receive their award ribbon through military channels.

The ASUA lapel pin is also authorized for optional purchase and wear on civilian clothing by qualified Soldiers.

A unit certificate, citation, and streamer was also issued to Corps Headquarters. Headquarters hosted a streamer ceremony and posted the ASUA streamer on the Corps' flag during the 2007 Castle Ball on Feb. 10.



From Top Left to Bottom Right

- A group of employees' children beat the heat by cooling off in a sprinkler provided during the events.
- Mike Roarty, Internal Review, takes his turn flipping burgers at the grill.
- A table full of District employees take their chances and test their skills during the Euchre tournament.
- Matt Barden, Security and Law Enforcement, takes his serve at the volleyball game.
- Joe Nobiling, Information Management, provides some music on his fiddle during the events.



Corps Day 2007

Award Winners

Employee of the Year

Engineer of the Year

Frederick Joers, Engineering and Construction

Professional Occupations

Jeffrey Rose II, Operations Division

Technical Occupations

Michael Barndollar, Engineering and Construction

Trades and Crafts Occupations

Danny Johnston, Operations Division

Public Contact Occupations

Cheryl Obal, Operations Division

EEO Champion of the Year (Supervisory)

Steven Russell, Operations Division

EEO Champion of the Year (Non-Supervisory)

Mary Craig, Programs and Project Management

Honorary Awards

Commander's Award for Civilian Service

Nancy VanderLeest, Resource Management

Corps of Engineers Landscape Architect of the Year

Kevin Holden, Engineering and Construction

Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Management and Comptroller, for Outstanding Accomplishments in Budgeting

James Toohey, Resource Management

2005 MVD Planning Excellence Award

Dan Fetes, Programs and Project Management

2005 MVD Planning Excellence Team Award for the Upper Mississippi River Environmental Restoration Program

Roger Perk, Engineering and Construction, and

Marvin Hubbell, Programs and Project Management

Suggester of the Year

Larry Folger, Operations Division

Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees Inductee for 2007

Donald L. Logsdon

Donald L. Logsdon began his career with the Rock Island District in October 1961 as an engineer trainee after receiving his bachelor of science in civil engineering from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, Rolla, Mo.

Logsdon worked as a structural engineer for several years designing bridges, pump stations and other structures at Saylorville and Red Rock reservoirs, and a miter-gate closure structure for the Dubuque, Iowa, Flood Damage Reduction Project. He led efforts to complete emergency protection measures for numerous cities in advance of Mississippi River floods in 1965 and 1969.

He earned his master's degree in structural engineering from the University of Iowa in 1969 and in 1972, became a registered structural engineer in Illinois.

In 1973, Logsdon was selected as chief of the General Engineering Section where he led the District's dam safety program, was the District expert on pump station design, and began the District's program of lock and dam rehabilitation at Old Lock 14. In 1978, he was selected as chief structural engineer for the District and chief of the Structural Engineering Section. In that

position, he directed engineering and design of many lock and dam rehabilitation projects, working closely with the Corps' Waterways Experiment Station and others in the Corps to develop and implement new concrete repair materials and techniques to improve quality and reduce the time necessary for this work.

Logsdon successfully led structural engineers in the evolution from slide rule to desktop computer calculations; from hand-drawn drafting to Computer-Aided Drafting and Design-produced construction plans.

He was a recognized expert in the structural engineering field, as exhibited by his education, professional registrations and positions held during his career. Logsdon retired on May 2, 1992, with 30 years of federal service.



A young area angler eyes her catch and awaits an official measurement to record her achievement during the fishing clinic held at Locks and Dam 14 on Aug. 11.

One of the smallest fish caught during the clinic is proudly displayed by an area youth's father. Both said they were happy catching something, and that it was great just getting out and having fun fishing.



CATCHIN' FISH, FUN at LOCKS and DAM 14

Story and photos by Mark Kane

Nearly 70 people turned out for the free fishing-clinic hosted by the Mississippi River Project Office at the Locks and Dam 14 day-use recreation area on Aug. 11.

The six-hour long clinic, for children ages five through 15, covered educational sessions on water safety, fishing skills and fish identification, a fishing contest, and even a free lunch for all the hungry anglers who participated.

Park Ranger Steve Vacek, Mississippi River Project Office, coordinated and administered the event, which is in its 14th year.

"The clinic this year was very successful," said Vacek. "The clinic was advertised as a family event and it was. Both parents and children learned more

about water safety, the fish that are found in the river and what different kinds of tackle that is used to catch the different fish found in the Mississippi. The majority of family members caught fish and had the opportunity to taste catfish fillets and frog legs. The clinic is also a great opportunity to discuss the Mississippi River Project's recreation program to the public and thus offer them an example of what we do. Hopefully, all the families that participated will develop a deeper appreciation for their environment and have fun doing it by enjoying the sport of fishing."

The fishing contest was the afternoon's main event, which was divided into three age groups.

At the end of the fishing contest, winners in each group were awarded prizes

for those who caught the most, largest and smallest fish.

Special prizes were also given to three first-time fishing participants.

The free lunch was provided by area business supporters.

Ten volunteers provided support for the event, which included more than 90 volunteer hours of work. Nearly 30 businesses made donations and contributions in support of the event.

Vacek said a special thanks goes out to the following volunteers for their assistance in the successful event: Bruce Eddy Anderson, Herchel Anderson, Al Classen, Christin Dale, Richard Haggart, John Lindstrom, Peggy McClellan, Jason McManus, Rick Simpson, and Scott Simpson. ■

REFERRAL BONUS EXTENDED TO ARMY CIVILIANS

By Army News Service, Heike Hasenauer, Soldiers Magazine

The Army has expanded its \$2,000 Referral Bonus program to include civilian employees, making it possible for them to earn \$2,000, while helping the Army boost enlistments.

Until March 15, the recruiting incentive - known as the "\$2K Referral Bonus" program for the regular Army and Army Reserve, and "Every Soldier is a Recruiter" in the National Guard - applied only to Soldiers and Army retirees who referred applicants who enlist, complete basic training and graduate from advanced individual training.

The bonus for referring a prospective applicant who has never served in the armed forces originated in January 2006 with a \$1,000 bonus. It was doubled in November 2006.

Under the newly expanded program, a Department of the Army civilian who refers a prospective recruit before the applicant meets with a recruiter is eligible for the award. Restrictions preclude the

referral of an immediate family member (including an adopted or stepchild). Additionally, the referral must be made via the following Web sites, respectively, for active-duty Army prospective recruits and Army National Guard prospective recruits: <https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart/> or www.1800goguard.com/esar.

Referrals for the regular Army and Army Reserve may also be made by calling U.S. Army Recruiting Command's toll-free number: (800) 223-3735. Referrals to the National Guard may be made by calling the Guard's toll-free number: (866) 566-2472.

"As the Army Civilian Creed notes, Army civilians are dedicated members of the Army team. They support the mission, and they provide stability and continuity during war and peace," said Lt. Gen. Michael Rochelle, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel. "I know they are directing deserving youth to recruiters now. This will not only encourage them,

but also reward them for their service."

For more information about the referral program, visit <https://www.usarec.army.mil/smart/> or call (800) 223-3735, extension 6-0473. ■



Qualified sponsors can earn a referral bonus for making a referral that enlists a new soldier who completes basic training and graduates from advanced individual training. Civilian and military sponsors are both qualified to receive a SMART (Sergeant Major of the Army) coin and certificate for a referral that enlists.

Dave Hood (center), lockmaster, LaGrange Lock and Dam, speaks with Waterways Council President Barry Palmer (far left) during the council's visit to the site on July 24. Leon Mucha (left), St. Paul District, and Royce Wilken (right), American River Transportation Co., are also in the discussion.



Stakeholders Visit Upper Mississippi, Illinois Projects

By Harry Cook, editor, Capitol Currents, Waterways Council, Inc.

Representatives of about two dozen Waterways Council, Inc., member shippers and carriers, agricultural producers and the carpenters union met two weeks ago with officials of the Corps of Engineers' St. Paul, Rock Island and St. Louis Districts.

Rick Granados, acting navigation business line manager for the Rock Island District, coordinated the meeting.

The three-day visit started with briefings in Bettendorf, Iowa, and at the Mississippi River Project Office at Locks and Dam 14, followed by inspections of the deterioration at Lock and Dam 18 on the Mississippi and two lock sites on the Illinois Waterway, LaGrange and Lockport, where the stability of the upper pool is at risk.

The stakeholders reviewed navigation infrastructure needs on the Mississippi and Illinois systems.

Officials initially identified 373 serious risks costing an estimated \$908 million to fix and later added 22 others, bringing the overall maintenance and major rehabilitation cost to \$1.3 billion. Of the total, 29 were classified as critical.

Funding for 13 was obtained in the Fiscal Year 2007 budget and another three in Fiscal Year 2008, leaving the remaining 13 awaiting the Fiscal Year 2009 budget cycle. ■

On The 'Net

Additional photos from the event can be seen on the District Photography page accessible off of the Tower Times Online.

Multiple Districts Rejuvenate Mel Price Lock

Lock Opens Ahead of Schedule



The District's heavy-lift crane, the Quad Cities, can be seen in the background of the barge housing one of the gates for the Melvin Price main lock chamber. The gates were housed on covered work barges, while diagonal braces on the miter gates were replaced, allowing the tension to be adjusted from the top without the necessity of dewatering the lock. Photo by Alan Dooley, Public Affairs, St. Louis District.

By Mark Kane

June 25 the 1,200-ft. main chamber of Melvin Price Locks and Dam was reopened to navigation at Alton, Ill., after wrapping up a planned 54-day, \$5.7 million overhaul ... ahead of schedule, which was originally set for July 3. As many as 80 workers from six Corps districts labored around the clock since the lock was closed on May 10.

"The multi-district effort to repair three different components of the Melvin Price main lock in one closure has been a great success," said Col. Lewis Setliff III, district commander for the St. Louis District.

The Rock Island District brought its heavy-lift crane, the Quad Cities, to remove the massive miter gates at the lock's downstream end. Each of the gates, 57-ft. tall and 65-feet wide, weighs 220 tons, except the first one also held 85 tons

of mud. The gates were laid out on tent-covered work barges, where workers replaced the cross beams with new diagonal braces and pins.

The new cross braces will allow engineers to tension the gates using only the top bolts, instead of the previous requirement to adjust bottom-tensioning bolts as well. This will enable adjustments to be done in the future without dewatering the gates, at a substantial savings in time and money, as well as impact to the navigation industry.

"This repair project was a textbook example of the success that can be had by working regionally," said Bill Gretten, Mississippi River Operations Manager. "Our guys have certainly went above and beyond the call of duty this year by working regionally not only with St. Louis,

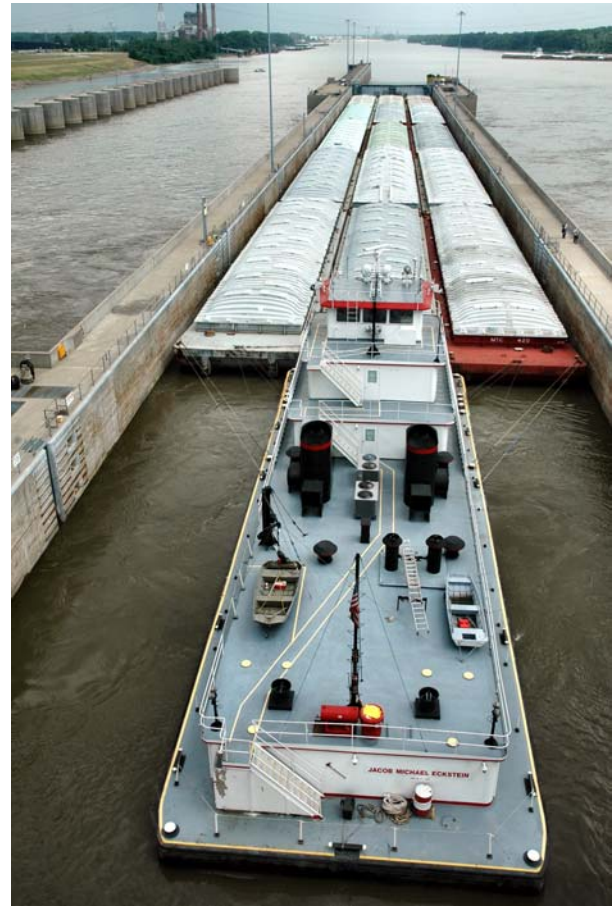
but with St. Paul, Memphis, and New Orleans districts."

"A tremendous amount of hard work and coordination has gone into this effort, and I can't say enough about the St. Louis District personnel and the team members from other Army Corps Districts who have come here to help us," said Setliff.

The St. Louis District was in charge of installing new 1½-inch steel cables, which raise and lower the trio of lift gates that fit together like stairsteps at the lock's upstream end. (In all, the repairs required 2.4 miles of the heavy-hoisting cables.)

According to Mike Feldmann, project manager for the \$5.6 million repair project, St. Louis District, beating the planned schedule by eight days has been accomplished with tremendous teamwork and

District employees from the Mississippi River Project Office prepare to install the gudgeon pin which holds the gate in place. Photo by Alan Dooley, Public Affairs, St. Louis District.



The Motor Vessel Jacob Michael Eckstein locks through the main chamber of Mel Price Locks and Dam on June 25. It was the first to lock through the main chamber after work was completed on the lock's gates. Photo by Alan Dooley, Public Affairs, St. Louis District.

effort. The lock's chamber, while the newest on the Mississippi River, is now 18-years-old, and these repairs were necessary for continued reliability, efficiency, and safety of one of the inland waterways

busiest and most critical navigation facilities. These repairs were identified as urgent on a regional prioritized list of backlog repairs for the entire Mississippi River System of locks, harbors and channel maintenance.

The current repairs also include replacement of downstream leaf cables,

motors that operate the lock gates, and electronic controls. Crews from the Louisville, Pittsburgh, St. Paul and Vicksburg Districts were also recruited to expedite the repair work. Several

fatigue cracks in the lift-gate leaves were also efficiently repaired during the closure without adding critical

downtime.

The Corps worked closely with the navigation industry during the closure. The 600-foot auxiliary lock remained

open to navigation and two Corps motor vessels, Pathfinder and Grand Tower, were used to help tows lock through.

The temporary closure was necessary to replace components that, if they had failed, would have necessitated potentially longer unscheduled closures with serious impacts to the navigation industry. While the Melvin Price Locks and Dam facility, which was placed in service Oct. 10, 1989, is the newest of the Mississippi River's system of locks and dams, periodic maintenance and replacement of key components is necessary to ensure the locks continue to operate safely and reliably.

Approximately 6,500 tows lock through Melvin Price each year, carrying more than 70 million tons of cargo.

Capitol Currents and St. Louis District Public Affairs contributed to this article.

"This repair project was a textbook example of the success that can be had by working regionally."

- Bill Gretten

Pathfinders: Are You Ready to Start Your Journey?

By Sara Paxson, Strategic Planning

As our District emphasizes a greater focus on our strategic goals, Pathfinders should prove to be a great asset in offering a form of career development for General Schedule 1 thru GS-8 and hourly rate equivalent employees.

Established in 2003, Pathfinders is a mentoring program geared to develop employees both on professional and personal levels. The intention of the program is to offer something to those who are not yet eligible for the District's Leadership Development Program. The Pathfinders program serves as an excellent tool in assisting employees with personal development, self awareness, communication skills, as well as teamwork. This is accomplished through a series of monthly training sessions, as well as one on one mentoring sessions. The program is somewhat individualized and self paced. Although there are requirements for graduation that are attached to a timeline, one can put as much extra time into it as they wish.

The Pathfinders committee often tells protégés that they will get out of it what they put into it. If your intention is to show up for each session, sit quietly, and achieve only the minimal the program has to offer, then that is what you will walk away with. Although if you plan to attend all training, go above and beyond by seeking optional activities and taking initiative to explore the many avenues you may encounter, then you will be bound for even greater success. As a recent graduate, I advise all participants to take advantage of the opportunities presented. Involve yourself in optional activities and the end result will be magnified.

When I applied for the 2006 Pathfinders program, I was hesitant. I didn't doubt my desire to grow; however, I wasn't sure about how a GS-3 student aide would fit in. I worried about having time to work, study, and take care of my family as well as complete the program successfully.

Once I received word that I had been accepted into the program, then I really began to question my belonging. I often wondered how others would treat me, and if I was ready for such a large leap. I soon realized that Pathfinders is full of people just like me, unsure about themselves or what it is they want to do with their life. It didn't take me long to recognize that my peers around me experience similar struggles and trials no matter if they are a GS-3 or a Wage Grade 8.

What do I feel that Pathfinders did for me? Well, I could go on for hours; however, I will try my best to sum it up. Pathfinders presented me opportunities that increased my communication abilities, as well as my self-esteem. Looking back, I remember our class working as a team to learn how to overcome obstacles and grow as individuals, as well as employees. I found that working closely with others who share similar goals and interests tends to boost one's self-esteem. As an outcome of the program, I gained a new passion for my future.

As a Pathfinders graduate, and now a current Pathfinders committee member, I am very passionate about seeing to it that this program remains successful. The first step is by ensuring that applications are received from all areas within our District. For the field-site employees who are debating if this is a manageable program, well I'm here to tell you it is! For 2007, three field-site employees were selected for the program. In 2006, five out of 14 graduates were field-site employees, of which two applied and were accepted into this year's Leadership Development Program. In addition, two past Pathfinders graduates have also been accepted



into the Corps of Engineers Emerging Leaders. Another benefit is that once you graduate, there is a possibility to remain part of the program. Graduates may have opportunities to become committee members, as well as mentors. In either situation, having the ability to see things from both sides creates a wealth of knowledge for the program and a fantastic opportunity for graduates who wish to continue their journey with Pathfinders.

Wrapping up, I would like to share a little advice; when filling out applications, please take pride in what you share. Keep in mind that protégés are selected exclu-



2007 Pathfinder Protégés: Elizabeth Nightingale, Celeste Iversen, December Winters, Luther Helland, Shelley Pagliarello, Michael Schulte, Pam Dannacher, Kathryn Nelson, Julie Brown, and Jacob Cawiezell.

sively on the basis of their application. In other words, take your time and do your best, because your application just may prove to be your ticket to even greater success.

After reading this article, I hope you have a better understanding of the program. Our next program will be starting this fall, so look for announcements, which will be coming your way soon. The Pathfinders committee looks forward to seeing numerous applications later this fall. 📌

Family Recreation Area Stands as Tribute to Father's Work, Spirit

By Kevin Shetler

From the editor: The following article is reprinted in the Tower Times Online at the request of the Shetler family. It originally appeared in the Des Moines Register, June 16, the day before Father's Day.

As a young boy growing up in eastern Iowa, I took a lot of things for granted: my family, my friends, Sunday church services and those once-a-month weekend visits to relatives on the farm.

My dad, mom, two sisters, younger brother and I might have been considered a model heartland family. Our strong family tie was perfectly orchestrated with my father at the helm. Dad was a jovial fella who loved people. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, a priceless friend and a hard worker.

We didn't realize it back then, but we were living in a special time. My dad was quick to celebrate successes and instilled in us a value system second to none: Treat people the way you would want to be treated; be fair, honest and ethical. To this day, he makes a strong impact on my life and the lives of others.

Dad worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the Rock Island District. It was his responsibility to negotiate land leases for the U.S. government along parts of the Mississippi River. He also negotiated with landowners to acquire farmland for certain waterways throughout Iowa. In a strange way, this is how our family became experts at camping.

During the late '60s and early '70s, most, if not all, of my family's camping excursions were done with a purpose. One summer, we camped at a location north of Des Moines that wasn't much to look at. It was a large land mass in the Des Moines River Valley with hundreds of tree stumps for as far as the eye could see. To me, it appeared as a major mud bog, but not to Dad. He said that one day it would be an incredible lake, a place for families to swim, boat and camp. Kind of a 'build it and they will come' mantra, long before the 'Field of Dreams' movie made that line famous.

Unfortunately, the man we all loved and admired would never get the chance to see his dream become a reality. Shortly after I graduated from high school in 1977, my 45-year-old father was diagnosed with lung cancer. Six months later, he was gone.

Bob Shetler



Alexandra and Amanda Shetler visit the Saylorville Lake recreation area named after their grandfather. Bob Shetler died before seeing his dream for the recreation area become a reality.

Although it's been nearly 30 years, my love for my father continues to grow.

The saying 'People come into our lives for a reason, a season or a lifetime' holds true for my father. Not only has my family benefited from his wise counsel, but numerous others through the years have been able to enjoy a special place named in honor of my father.

If you have been fortunate enough to visit the Bob Shetler Recreation Area, south of the Saylorville Dam, you can appreciate Dad's vision. The area was dedicated to my father by the Corps of Engineers after his death. He was recognized for working tirelessly on the project, which has matured into one of Iowa's great recreational areas.

The Bob Shetler Campground features portions on both sides of the river channel and the main campground along the dam. While the area holds a special place in our hearts, it also does for anyone who loves to partake in the great outdoors.

Today, along with providing flood control, Saylorville Lake is a 26,000-acre project that fulfills a truly multipurpose role. It is alive with campers, RVers, fishermen, boaters, hikers and bikers who come from all over to enjoy this unique area with family and friends.

Dad wasn't necessarily a visionary, but simply a man who understood the value of family and friends and the importance of sharing special times together. He was taken from us way too soon, but his spirit lives on in a beautiful place for everyone to enjoy.

As we reflect on our fathers this weekend, it is my wish to extend my dad's 'season' to everyone this Father's Day - and every day. And, if you get the chance, spend some time at Saylorville Lake and create your own memories to last a lifetime!

I love you, Dad, happy Father's Day.

Kevin Shetler lives with his wife, Mary, and two daughters, Amanda and Alexandra, in Scottsdale, Arizona. 🇺🇸



District Gears Up For Combined Federal Campaign

By Mark Kane

Temperatures are beginning to fall, students are back in school, and plans for the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign are well underway.

"Help Our World Forward" is the theme for the 2007 Illowa Bi-State campaign, an annual fund drive that covers federal and postal employees on Arsenal Island and in a 12-county region of western Illinois and eastern Iowa. The area reaches many District sites including the Clock Tower Complex and Locks and Dams 13 through 19.

The mission of the CFC is to support and promote philanthropy through a voluntary program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

This year Joe Nobiling, Information Management, is the main chair for the District's CFC campaign, with Aimee Vermeulen, Office of Counsel, as the co-chair of the campaign. Both Nobiling and Vermeulen have experience in coordinating and leading the District's participation in the annual campaign.

Nobiling said the dates for this year's CFC events are taking shape with a few

already hammered out.

The official start of the Illowa CFC campaign will kickoff with the annual workplace olympics, which will be held at the Rock Island Arsenal Fitness Center on Oct. 3, at 11:30 a.m. Beth Hann, Resource Management, is coordinating and putting together a team to represent the District at the games.

The District will hold its 11th Annual Chili Cookoff on Oct. 4, which will once again be coordinated by Jody Schmitz, Engineering and Construction, coordinating the event. Schmitz is already collecting names of those who would like to enter their chili creations into this year's cookoff. Awards will be given out for the three best chilies, the best costume, and a people's choice award for best chili.

For the sixth year, the District will play host to an online auction to raise funds for the CFC, which raised more than \$5,710 last year. Overall, this is the 10th year the District has hosted an auction in support of the CFC. George Hardison, Operations Division, is once again heading up the effort of coordinating the event, which is slated to start Oct. 29 and run through Nov. 8. Hardison said people can start thinking about what they would like to

donate and give him a call at 309-794-5332 when they've decided on their contribution.

Nobiling and Vermeulen will have their work cut out for them to meet the bar set by District employees' participation in last year's Illowa CFC. Last year, the District earned two awards, which underscored the District's innovation and giving spirit when raising contributions for charities through the CFC. The District earned an award for the highest average donation by a large organization, as well as an award for the most innovative campaign.

District employees eligible to contribute to the Illowa CFC, who participated, had an average donation of \$325 per person.

The most innovative campaign award was earned through continued annual events such as the chili cookoff and the online auction.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of employees in the federal workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. It continues to be the largest and most successful workplace fundraising model in the world. Online information regarding the Illowa Bi-State CFC can be found at www.illowacfc.org.



Around the District

District Commander's Award

Sue Clevenstine, Operations Division, received the May Commander's Award.

Clevenstine earned the award for her efforts while she served on the Corps' Entrance Fee Project Delivery Team August 2004 through February 2005.

She was recognized by Don Dunwoody, Northwestern Division, for her "efforts, insight, and courage in recommending that the Corps of Engineers partner with other federal agencies under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Although the recommendation of the Project Delivery Team was not accepted, recent events verified that the initial recommendation of the Project Delivery Team was not only credible, but in the best interest of the public we serve."

Headquarters is now actively working to have the Corps added to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

Michael Tomlinson, Resource Management, received the April Commander's Award.

Tomlinson earned the award for restoring system access to critical District computer programs for the affected Logistics Management personnel after their access was lost, which was related to their conversion to the Corps' Logistics Activity and the Office of Secretary of Defense High-Performing Organization Pilot Program.

Larry Bernauer, Information Management, received the February Commander's Award.

Bernauer earned the award for his proactive management of the installation

of the District's new Dell Storage Area Network. This is a complex unit that handles the data storage network for the entire district. Bernauer assumed the responsibility and took the lead, while the other network administrator was involved with preparations for the arrival of a new child.

Congrats ...

Congratulations to **Tom and Mary Gambucci**, Engineering and Construction, on the birth of a baby boy, Anthony Ray, Sept. 17. He was 7 pounds and 14 ounces, and 20¼ inches long.



Congratulations to **Christian and Audra Hawkinson**, Engineering and Construction, on the birth of a baby girl, Rebekah Kathleen, Aug. 6. She was 9 pounds and 6 ounces, and 20½ inches long.

Retirements ...

Karen Grizzle, chief, Federal Lands Support Branch, Real Estate Division, will retire Sept. 30, after dedicating 30 years and two months to the federal government.

Stephen Fairbanks, park manager, Saylorville Lake, retired Sept. 2, after dedicating 31 years and two months to the federal government.

Jerry Tucker, crane operator, Structures Maintenance Support Unit, Maintenance Section, Illinois Waterway, Operations Division, retired Sept. 1, after dedicating 27 years and one month to the federal government.

Dana Crawford, engineering equipment operator supervisor, Project Maintenance Unit, Maintenance Section, Illinois Waterway Project Office, Operations Division, retired Aug. 1, after dedicating 36 years and four months to the federal government.

Leonard Ernst, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 12, Operations Division, retired July 2, after dedicating 38 years and 10 months to the federal government.

Larry Boeken, lock and dam operator, Lock and Dam 16, Operations Division, retired June 30, after dedicating 26 years and three months to the federal government.

Mark Schroeder, lead civil engineer, Planning and Policy Branch, Programs and Project Management, retired June 3, after dedicating 37 years and three months to the federal government.

Gary Spencer, lock and dam operator, Locks and Dam 15, Operations Division, retired June 1, after dedicating 33 years and six months to the federal government.

Phillip Cray, supervisory natural resources specialist, Natural Resources Management Section, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired May 31, after dedicating 30 years to the federal government.

Wayne Johanson, realty specialist, Federal Lands Support Branch, Real Estate, retired May 31, after dedicating 32 years and nine months to the federal government.

George Mech, supervisory civil engineer, chief, Geotechnical Branch, Engineering and Construction, retired May 1, after dedicating 32 years and three months to the federal government. ☺

☛ **Larry Spengler**, maintenance worker, Structures Maintenance Unit, Maintenance Branch, Mississippi River Project Office, Operations Division, retired April 30, after dedicating 23 years and seven months to the federal government.

Sterling Vasser, systems accountant, Finance and Accounting Branch, Resource Management, retired April 1, after dedicating 38 years, seven months, and 21 days to the federal government.

◆

Sympathy ...



Harold "Harry" Sadnick, 80, of Peru, Ill., died Sept. 3, in Illinois Valley Community Hospital, Peru.

Sadnick was a lock and dam operator at Starved Rock Lock and Dam from the mid 1970s until his retirement from the District in 1993.

He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.



Robert "Bob" Murphy, 77, died July 19, at his home in Clive, Iowa.

Murphy worked with the Corps when he lived in Onawa, Iowa.

He served in the U.S. Navy in San Diego in the early 50s.



Margaret Routson, 83, died July 13, at Fleur Heights Care Center, Waukee, Iowa.

Routson worked with the District and retired from the Corps at Saylorville Lake in the late

1980s.



Wayne Carlisle, 85, of Washington, Ill., died July 6, at his home.

Carlisle worked with the District in the Illinois Waterway Project Office in electrical maintenance for 30 years before

retiring in 1981.

He was a World War II Navy veteran and a member of Mt. Carmel Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Kim Stone, 43, of Lancaster, Wis., formerly of Orion, Ill., died on June 21, from a long battle with

liposarcoma cancer at Grant Regional Health Center, Lancaster.

Stone worked with the District as a realty clerk from September 1999 until September 2003.



Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid, 48, of Bettendorf, Iowa, died May 16, at University of Iowa Hospitals, Iowa City, Iowa.

She was a licensed civil engineer with the

District, working as Assistant Chief, Programs and Project Management.

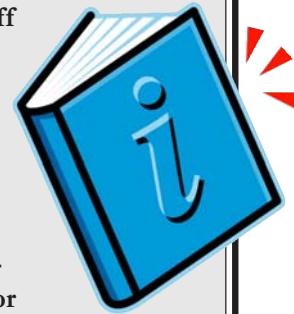
She was a past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Quad-City Section, and a member of the Society of American Military Engineers.

Among her numerous accomplishments were being named as the District Woman of the Year in 1983, Junior Engineer of the Year 1987 with the Quad-City Engineering and Science Council, and District Professional of the Year in 1994.

Need some help finding a book, an article or obscure report?

The USACE Technical Library, located on the lower level of the Clock Tower Building, has a trained library staff with a professional librarian available for your research.

The library staff conducts searches and obtains interlibrary loans of articles, reports and other pertinent material for your informational needs.



Their website - www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Library - offers an example to some of the many services provided. Call the District library at 309-794-5884 for more details.

October is ...

National Disability Employment Awareness Month



NOTE

Please send achievements, births, and obituaries for this page to the editor at: mark.a.kane@usace.army.mil.

Without your input, we may not receive the information that enables us to inform the District.

SUPPORT, SACRIFICE FOR CORPS

Thanks to our employees who are deployed or have completed duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, as well as those who are deployed or have completed duty in support of Natural Disaster Relief Operations

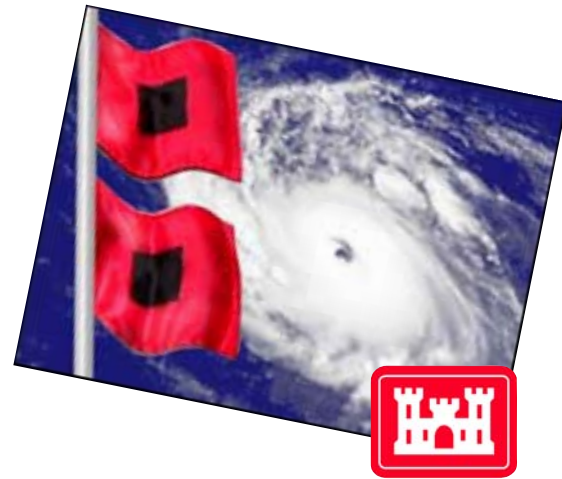
Thank You For Serving!



A listing of all the current District employees who are, or have been, involved in supporting the Global War on Terrorism and Natural Disaster Relief Operations can be seen on the District's Internet at:



www.mvr.usace.army.mil/PublicAffairsOffice/TowerTimes/support-for-corps/support-for-corps.htm



Memories of Kirkeeng-Kincaid

Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid, a licensed civil engineer with the District, was the assistant chief of Programs and Project Management and left an indelible mark on the District that has been recognized in print, as a park bench overlooking the Mississippi River, and as a new name of the Programs and Project Management conference room in the Clock Tower Building. Kirkeeng-Kincaid died May 16, but memories of her continue to last through her family and friends.

Susan Smith, Mississippi Valley Division, wrote an endearing article about her memories of Kirkeeng-Kincaid, which was published in the June edition of Planning Ahead.

On July 30, the District honored Kirkeeng-Kincaid's memory and accomplishments by erecting a park bench outside of the Mississippi River Visitor Center beside the bench created in memory of Dan Holmes who died Aug. 27, 2005. Both benches overlook the Mississippi River.

In addition, the conference room in Programs and Project Management is now the Teresa Kirkeeng-Kincaid Conference Room and contains a display that includes letters in tribute of Kirkeeng-Kincaid from

both the House and Senate of the U.S. Congress.

John Kincaid, Engineering and Construction, and Kirkeeng-Kincaid's husband, asked for this note to be published in regard to the outpouring of condolences and support in the wake of his wife's death.

"On behalf of my family, I would like to thank each of you for your kind words, prayers and support after Teresa's battle with cancer and her sudden passing. A tree has been planted behind Teresa's memorial bench in honor of our Corps family. As we sit on that

bench, the shade of this tree will remind us of the comfort that you have provided our family. Warmest Regards, John Kincaid. 🇺🇸



The memorial bench for Kirkeeng-Kincaid is seen in the foreground as District employees, retirees, and family and friends, share memories about her. Photo by Justine Barati, Corporate Communications.

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp Becomes Chief of Engineers

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp became the 52nd Chief of Engineers and Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers May 18. He assumed this position from Lt. Gen. Carl Strock who retired after 36 years of military service.

Van Antwerp took charge of the nation's leading public engineering agency.

His previous assignment was as commanding general, U.S. Army Accessions Command and deputy commanding general for Initial Military Training at Fort Monroe, Virginia. The Army Accessions Command consists of U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky.; U.S. Army Cadet Command, Fort Monroe, Va.; and the U.S. Army Training Center, Fort Jackson, S.C. Additionally, Van Antwerp exercised Department of the Army directed executive agent authority over the Military Entrance Processing Command.

Command assignments include the U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center and Fort Leonard Wood/Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer School; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District during the Northridge Earthquake of 1994; the U.S. Army Division, South Atlantic, Atlanta, Ga.; and the 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Other assignments include Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, Washington, DC; director, Office of Competitive Sourcing, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Research, Development and Acquisition), Washington, DC; executive assistant to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC;

executive officer, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, DC; chief, Military Engineering and Construction Division, U.S. Army Western Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii; executive officer, 84th Engineer Battalion, 45th General Support Group, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and instructor, Department of Mechanics, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

Van Antwerp graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1972. He completed ranger, airborne and air assault training, the engineer officer basic course and the engineer officer advanced course. He holds a master of science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan and a master of business administration degree from Long Island University in New York. He is a Registered Professional Engineer.

Van Antwerp and his wife, Paula have three sons, Jeff, Luke and Rob; and two daughters, Julia and Kathryn. 🇺🇸



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