

**Bayou Yokely Pump Station #3  
Dedication Ceremony  
Comments for LTC Mike Burt  
March 28, 2002**

Thank you, Mayor Jones. This is indeed a great day for the city of Franklin, the Corps and our partners. It was only two years ago that we celebrated the groundbreaking for the new Bayou Yokely Pumping Station.

In that time, the Corps, together with the mayor and other Franklin officials, as well as the St. Mary Parish Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1 and the St. Mary Parish government worked closely on the construction of this pumping station.

The original station was built back in 1955 to provide necessary drainage for the city of Franklin. Natural drainage had been impacted by the construction of the levees west of Berwick. Replacement of that station became necessary to restore discharge capacity that has been lost due to subsidence and the station's age.

Back in the mid-90s, the Corps was planning to construct a pumping station with a 481 cubic feet per second capability at a cost of \$3.6 million. Meanwhile, the city of Franklin was planning to construct a much larger 1,181 cubic feet per second pumping station adjacent to the existing Corps station.

Mayor Jones suggested that, in lieu of the Corps spending funds to construct a new station, we reimburse the local sponsors for a portion of their cost. Our willingness to work hand in hand with our partners paid off with \$1.6 million in savings for the federal government and the taxpayers.

And with the Corps paying 41 percent of the costs, the locals saved money on construction and own a pumping station ideally suited to their needs. Truly, a win-win situation for all!

The Corps' emphasis on customer care and providing quality products on time and at the lowest cost to our customers is exemplified by our efforts on this project.

I'd like to end my speech with a personal tribute to Mayor Jones. As mayor of Franklin for 20 years, I know you've been very closely involved in the life of this project. I remember reading that you considered the eventual construction of this station to be a personal odyssey.

Not many people see such an ambitious goal realized during their tenure. I congratulate you on your achievement. The residents of this parish will benefit from your personal quest. Congratulations and thank you.