

# Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 46, No. 10 August 2012

*Building Strong*®



Hopkinton-Everett  
project celebrates  
50 years of Flood  
Damage Reduction

# Yankee Voices

Ken Paton and Farrell McMillan



## Congratulations

... to **Jim Hachigian**, Thames River Basin, and his wife, Melanie on the birth of their second child, daughter **Amelia Anne**, July 30.

Amelia joins her big brother, Samuel, in the family circle.

## Sympathy

... to the family of retired Assistant Project Manager **John Collins** (Black Rock/Northfield Brook) who passed away Aug 6. Mr. Collins retired from the Corps in 1985.

In addition to his service to the Corps of Engineers, Mr. Collins served his country honorably in World War II as a medic with Company F, 309th Infantry Regiment, in the 78th Division, serving in Hurtgen Forest.

He fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He received the Bronze Star for valor and two Purple Hearts.

## Corps awards \$2.2 million contract for Boston Harbor Main Ship Channel Work

**By Timothy Dugan**  
Public Affairs Office

Rock removal from portions of the 40-foot deep Main Ship Channel in the Boston Harbor Federal Navigation Project in Boston, Mass., will be conducted under the terms of a \$2,231,250 contract issued recently by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Work will be accomplished by Burnham Associates, Inc., of Salem, Mass. The project is scheduled to start on or about Aug. 1, and be completed by about Sept. 30. The contract was awarded on July 16.

"The project consists of the removal of rock/ledge from seven locations in the Main Ship Channel of Boston Harbor," said Project Manager Mike Keegan, of the Corps' New England District, Programs and Project Management Division in Concord, Mass. "The rock that is removed from the channel will be placed at the rock reef portion of the Massachusetts Bay Disposal Site located approximately 20 miles offshore."

Borings have been taken at the locations and rock testing performed. The contractor will drill and blast the rock to fracture it and it then will be removed with a mechanical clam shell dredge.

The project will be managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District. All work will be accomplished under the supervision of a Corps of Engineers Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.

For more information about Corps of Engineers' New England District projects or activities visit the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

## Words worth repeating

"The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do."

- Sarah Ban Breathnach



# Commander's Corner:

## New Leadership = Great Credibility!

By Col. Charles P. Samaris  
District Commander



*"The more you are willing to accept responsibility for your actions, the more credibility you will have."*

~ **Brian Koslow**  
Founder and president/CEO of  
*Breakthrough Coaching, Inc*

New England Team:

Well...hard

to believe, but it's been twelve months since the change of command occurred in historic Faneuil Hall. So, first allow me to thank you for a GREAT FIRST YEAR! What made it great? Two things: the mission and the team! First of all...serving the people of New England and the nation by delivering a wide variety of

high quality projects and services is an extremely rewarding mission for us all. They deserve our very best, and that is exactly what we all strive to achieve. And, of course, the team...at the core of which is each and every one of you...executes this mission and delivers results through character, passion, and selfless service. You create an environment of dedicated excellence that results in strong organizational credibility – it is an honor to serve with you!

Speaking of strong credibility, just a few weeks ago the North Atlantic Division installed a new Commander, Col. Kent Savre. He's a great American with whom I've served in the past, and am glad to have him at the helm of our regional team...you'll find more on his background inside this issue. And like our new Chief, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, he has an excellent reputation among seniors, peers, and subordinates... and garners great credibility with our senior military and civilian leaders.

For both of our new leaders, their credibility is important for our effective integration with, and support of, the Army, the region, and the nation.

As you can probably tell, I've been thinking about the term credibility lately...for me it's a natural follow-on to last issue's discussion about expertise.

Credibility is: 1) The quality or power of inspiring belief;

2) The quality of being believable or worthy of trust (After all those lies, his credibility was at a low ebb) [and, I'll note here, that nearly all descriptive examples and quotes that refer to the word 'credibility' frame it within a negative context – not a strong commentary on the state of our society].

In her book The Personal Credibility Factor, Sandy Allgeier asserts that there are three simple secrets to personal credibility. They are: "1. Respect is earned from what we do, not from position, status, or power; 2. Trust happens only when people know that we are sincere and transparent; 3. We greatly increase our chances for earning trust and respect when we choose to suspend judgment of others—and keep

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**'For both of our new leaders, their credibility is important for our effective integration with, and support of, the Army, the region, and the nation.'**

- Col. Charles Samaris

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our minds open to considering other perspectives." BLUF: To inspire and influence others, a leader must be credible. At the core of credibility is trust. So, to be credible, a leader must earn the trust of seniors, peers, and – most of all – subordinates.

This issue of the YANKEE ENGINEER includes a wide variety of highly credible people, projects, and activities. Whether it's a person culminating a credible career, a project providing credible long-term protection to a community, or an activity that advances the credibility of the New England District...all serve to reinforce the organizational credibility of the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers!

But it all starts with each one of us – our personal credibility counts as we deliver superior results to the people of New England and the Nation – with character, passion, and a strong sense of service!

*"To be persuasive we must be believable; to be believable we must be credible; credible we must be truthful."*

~ **Edward R. Murrow**

*American Broadcast Journalist - gained prominence through radio news broadcasts during World War II (April 25, 1908 – April 27, 1965)*

Essayons!



Flooding at the Netherlands Road Bridge. Inset: Artist rendition of a culvert set to be installed.

Photo by Michael Keegan

## Corps awards \$30.9 million contract for Muddy River Flood Risk Management and Environmental Restoration project

**By Timothy Dugan**  
**Public Affairs**

Phase 1 of the Muddy River Flood Risk Management and Environmental Restoration project in Boston and Brookline, Mass., will be constructed under the terms of a \$30,961,340 contract issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Work will be accomplished by Charter Environmental of Boston, Mass. Construction is scheduled to start on or about Oct. 1, and be completed in approximately 36 months. "The project objectives are to reduce flood risk and enhance aquatic/riparian habitat within Muddy River through improvements to restrictive drainage culverts, dredging accumulated sediment, removing nuisance vegetation, improving fisheries/wildlife habitat, bank stabilization and promoting and enhancing the recreational use of emerald necklace

parklands," said Project Manager Mike Keegan, of the Corps' New England District, Programs and Project Management Division.

The project consists of the installation of two, 24-foot by 10-foot pre-cast concrete arch culverts supported by drilled shafts for 3-foot diameter and approximately 50-foot long caissons under existing roadways to support the culverts; the construction of concrete headwalls and wing walls also supported by caissons; installation of granite veneer and capstones on wing walls and headwalls; major excavation to construct open channel sections of river; and significant landscaping of new and existing channel sections. The project is in response to severe flooding in past years along and adjacent to the Muddy River as well as several tributary areas, particularly Stony Brook.

To accomplish this construction

work will require dewatering sections of Muddy River, removal of existing culverts, construction of new and temporary roadways and modification of existing roadways, the installation and modification of traffic signals and controllers, and the construction of a weir structure upstream of the project area.

The project will be managed by the Corps and supervised by a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements. A project webpage will be established for the project to allow the public to follow construction progress and be informed of upcoming activities. For more information about other Corps projects or activities visit the website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>.

The non-federal sponsors for the project are the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the city of Boston and the town of Brookline.



Photo by Justin Ward, NAD

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commander and Deputy Chief of Engineers Maj. Gen. Todd T. Semonite hands the flag of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to incoming commander Col. Kent D. Savre at an Assumption of Command ceremony July 31 at the Fort Hamilton Community Club in Brooklyn.

## North Atlantic Division gets new Commander

Colonel Kent D. Savre is the new Commander of North Atlantic Division. He replaces Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca.

Col. Savre hails from Edina, Minn., and was commissioned an Engineer second lieutenant in 1985 upon graduation from Officer Candidate School. Col. Savre has served in a variety of command and staff positions beginning as a platoon leader with the 17th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas. While stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., he deployed to Southwest Asia in December 1990 and assumed command of Bravo Company, 864th Engineer Battalion.

He returned to Fort Lewis to serve with the 555th Engineer Group followed by an assignment as Aide-de-Camp to the I Corps Deputy Commanding General. From 1995-1997 Col. Savre served as a project engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers

St. Paul District. He then joined 1st Infantry Division in Germany and deployed with the Initial Entry Force into Kosovo in June 1999 as Task Force Engineer. He served a second tour in Kosovo as the 82nd Engineer Battalion Executive Officer and returned to Bamberg for duty as the 1st Infantry Division Engineer Brigade S3 and Executive Officer.

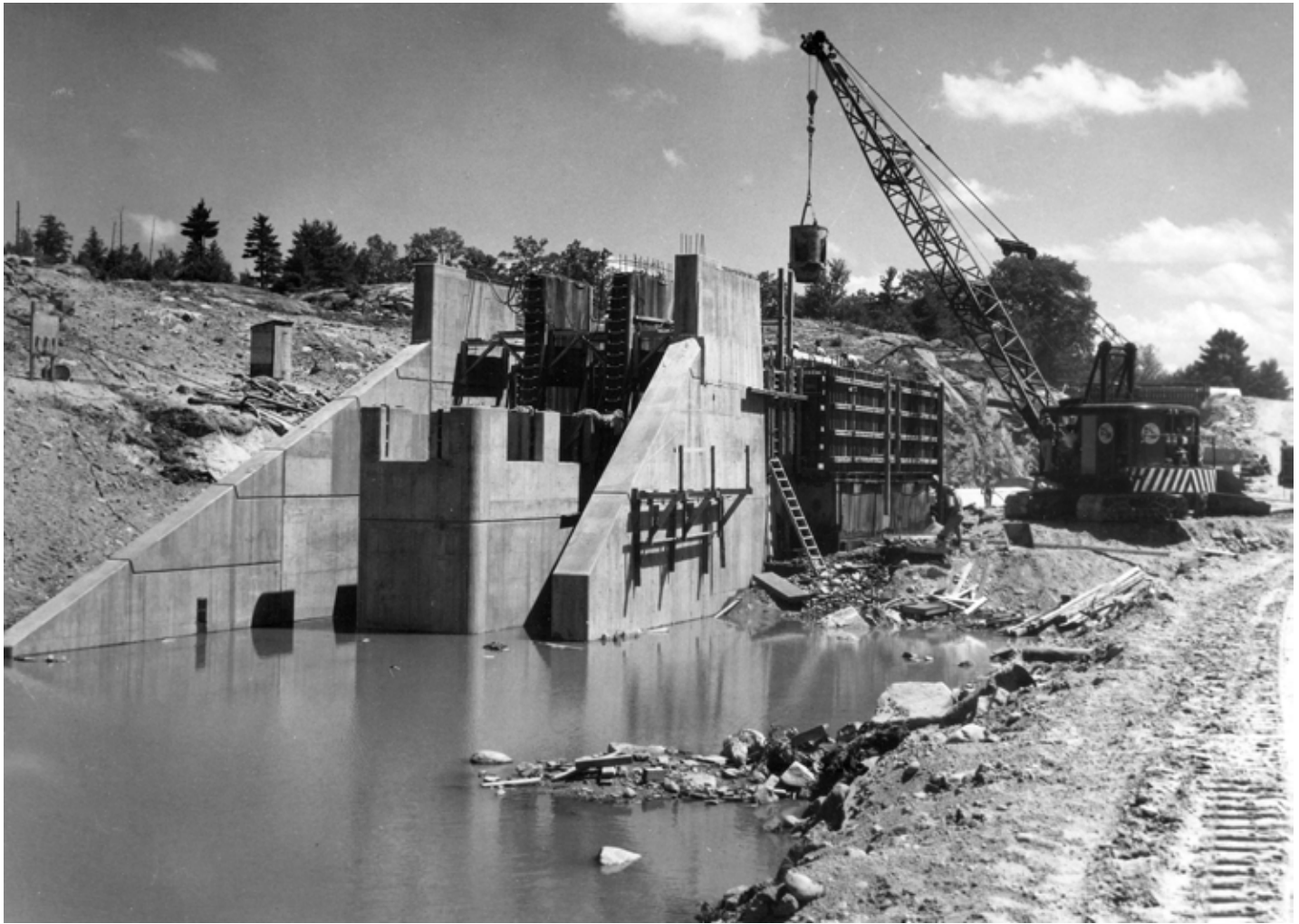
More recently, Col. Savre served at Fort Lewis, Wash., as the Assistant Corps Engineer for I Corps and deployed to Iraq in May 2003 to command the 864th Engineer Battalion supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. From 2005-2007 he served as Director of the Counter Explosive Hazards Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., focused on rapid solutions to the improvised explosive device threat. In 2008 he assumed command of the 36th Engineer Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas and deployed to Iraq in March 2010 as the United States Forces-

Iraq Theater Engineer Brigade commander. In 2011 he was assigned to the Pentagon as Director of the Office of the Chief of Engineers.

His military education includes the Engineer Officer Advanced Course, United States Army Command and General Staff College and United States Army War College. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, a Master's degree in Construction Management from Arizona State University and a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

Col. Savre's awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star medal (with Two Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with Four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with Four Oak Leaf Clusters) and the Army Achievement Medal.

*(NAD Press Release)*



Ongoing construction looking downstream into intake channel toward intake works in this June 29, 1960 photo.

USACE photo

## Hopkinton-Everett Dams celebrates 50 years of flood damage reduction

Federal, state and local officials gathered with hundreds of local residents to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New England District's Hopkinton-Everett Lakes Project, July 28.

The ceremony at the Hopkinton Dam featured distinguished guests, speakers and music provided by the Hopkinton Town Band. Hopkinton-Everett Lakes Project Manager Stephen Dermody served as Master of Ceremonies for the event and welcomed the audience to the project. "Today we'll look at our past and also look at our current operations and look to the next 50 years and beyond," he said.

Dermody read a letter of appre-

ciation from U.S. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, expressing her congratulations and best wishes on the anniversary. Congr. Charles Bass also sent a letter of congratulations to the Hopkinton-Everett staff.

Dermody then introduced the speakers for the day, starting with Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander. "This is a significant milestone we are observing," he said. "This flood risk management project has been protecting the citizens of those communities, the region, the state of New Hampshire and downstream areas for 50 years. That's quite an accomplishment."

The colonel said that the decision to build the project was based on devastating natural disasters – the floods of 1927, 1936 and the Great New England Hurricane of 1938 – that killed two dozen people, left tens of thousands homeless and caused an estimated \$36 million in property damages. "You know, public safety is a true team sport," he said. "More than 50 years ago, many federal, local and state officials made some difficult decisions to bring this project to fruition. And the communities and residents made sacrifices that allowed this project to be built. Today we can thank those leaders and those residents who had the vision to plan for



Park Ranger Jennifer Samela points out a piece of equipment during one of the gate house tours.

Photos by Brian Murphy

the future, and to accomplish what we see here today.”

Col. Samaris also said that although the project cost \$21.4 million to build, the two dams have prevented more than \$217 million in flood damages since they were built. “Hopkinton-Everett Lakes is just one of the many projects in New England that contribute to the region-wide flood reductions effort and has proved its significant value to the local community, the state of New Hampshire and the nation.”

Jim O’Brien, Chairman, Town of Hopkinton Board of Selectmen, said he enjoyed visiting the dam with his sons and taking advantage of the many recreational opportunities the project has to offer. He thanked the Corps of Engineers for the project on behalf of the town. He talked about the public safety that the project provides. “This

project also provides a real sense of community and public benefit,” he said. “I personally go down and canoe and kayak in the lakes,” he said. “Elm Brook Park is also a wonderful addition to our community. We use it often for swimming. The education

programs are wonderful. My boys are part of the Junior Ranger Program. Thank you to the Corps of Engineers for making the town a better place.” He concluded his remarks by reading a proclamation naming July 28, 2012

*Continued on page 8*



Attendees visit the many exhibits available at the event.



Col. Charles Samaris (Center) and his wife, Kathleen Samaris, talk with a visitor before one of the gate house tours.



The Hopkinton Fire Department flies a large American flag in honor of Hopkinton-Everett Dam's 50th celebration.

## Hopkinton-Everett 50th

*Continued from page 7*

Hopkinton-Everett Lake Project 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day.

Les Hammond, Chairman of the Town of Dunbarton Board of Selectmen also had a proclamation to read, but not before he shared some very funny experiences about his youth and his adventures with his friends during the construction of the project. Hammond had the audience laughing as he talked about the pranks he and his friends performed to annoy the construction

workers at the site. "We would go out at night as teenagers and start up the equipment," he laughed. "We did it so often, residents thought they put on a night crew." They laughed even harder when he told the story about how they were finally caught. "One day it snowed and the construction crew followed our tracks," he said. "When we saw them, we knew it wasn't going to be good."

Hammond declared July 28, 2012 as Hopkinton-Everett Lake Project's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Day in Dunbarton. The

town of Weare also provided a proclamation by mail. New Hampshire State Senator Sylvia Larsen, representing Governor John Lynch did not speak, but presented the District with a state proclamation.

The New England District Ranger Color Guard opened and closed the official ceremony by posting and retiring the colors. The team members who served in this capacity were Joe Faloretti, Jamie Kordack, Merlon Bassett, Jason Robinson and Matthew Coleman.

After the ceremony, attendees were invited to tour the Hopkinton Dam and the Everett Dam gate houses at various times throughout the afternoon.

The Hopkinton Fire Department also attended the ceremony and flew a giant American Flag from the ladder in recognition of the project's service to the nation. The firefighters gave tours of the ladder truck to young and old and were available in case someone needed assistance.

There were historical exhibits at the event that documented the project construction, the natural disasters that were the catalysts of the project's con-



The Town of Hopkinton Band provided musical entertainment before and after the official ceremony.





The New England District Ranger Color Guard opened and closed the official ceremony.

struction, and also of the original ground breaking ceremony that was attended by then Vice-President Richard Nixon. The Hopkinton Historical Society provided some historic photos and one of the ground breaking shovels to display. The Henniker Historical Society provided core samples taken prior to construction of the project.

The New England District's Water Safety Trailer was filled with activities and prizes for children.

The Weare Winter Wanderers Snowmobile club had a display as did the Merrimack Valley Trail Riders, the Concord Aero Guidance Society, and New Hampshire Fish and Game. The Aero Guidance Society provided model

airplane flying to interested attendees at Elm Brook Park.

Park Rangers that assisted in the success of this celebration were: Karen Hoey, Jenn Samela, Brad Clark, Bree Gerrior, Samantha Dube, Natalie McCormack and Matt Cummings. Merrimack River Basin Office staff also assisted including: Operations Manager Rob Shanks, Environmental Compliance Coordinator Marty Curran, Administrative Officer Kris Blanchette, and Basin Assistant Bob Garrahan. Host Volunteers Ron and Pat Derby were also on hand to help out during the celebration.

In addition to Col. Samaris, special guests who attended the celebration were Selectman Leo Aucoin from the town of Henniker, State Representative Mark Lindsey, Brian Defosses from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau, Frank Fedele, Chief, Operations Division, Joan Gardner, Deputy Chief, Operations Division, Jack Keenan, Chief Reservoir Regulation Section as well as former project managers and retirees Dave Shepardson and Ralph Golec.

The dam at Hopkinton Lake, located on the Contoocook River in Hopkinton and the dam at Everett Lake, located on the Piscataquoag River in Weare, are connected by a two-mile long canal and in moderate to severe flooding are operated as a single flood risk management project. Construction of the project was completed in 1962.

Hopkinton Dam is 790-foot-long and 76 feet high and can impound a 3,700-acre lake. Everett Dam is 2,000-foot-long and 115-foot-high and can impound a 2,900-acre lake. The lakes have a combined storage capacity of 51 billion gallons of water and are linked by a canal, which allows water to be diverted between the two pools. Recreational opportunities abound year around at the project. For more information visit [www.corpslakes.us/Hopkinton-Everett](http://www.corpslakes.us/Hopkinton-Everett).



USACE photo

New England Division Engineer Brig. Gen. Alden Sibley (from left), Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Emerson Itschner and Rep. Thomas Lane, break ground on the project during a ceremony on Oct. 3, 1959.



The new addition to the VA Providence Hospital in Rhode Island will provide state-of-the-art health care to Veterans.

Photo by Jennifer Flanagan

## District, customer cut ribbon on new medical addition at VA Hospital in Providence

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) officials and other partners at a ceremony to cut the ribbon on the new Specialties Clinic and Behavioral Health Addition July 20 at the VA Providence Hospital in Rhode Island.

The goal of the new addition is to better meet the mental health and specialty needs of Veterans. "I'm proud that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can assist the Providence VA Medical Center with this important work," said Col. Samaris. "In my view there is nothing more important than taking care of our military service members who have put themselves in harm's way in the defense of our nation."

The conceptual design of the new addition began in 2009. Cannon Design of Boston, Mass., completed the design. Gilbane Building Company of Providence, R.I., began construction on the \$18.8 million project in May 2011 and it was completed this June.

The new addition, which is located at the former main

entrance at the east side of the main hospital, includes 10,000 square feet of specialty clinic space that will house examining and procedure rooms, microscope and resident rooms equipment storage and a staff lounge. "The addition also includes nearly 13,000 square feet of added behavioral health space comprised of 21 consult rooms and offices, two specialized therapy rooms, two exam rooms, six group therapy rooms, a staff lounge as well as a waiting and reception area," said District Project Manager Jennifer Flanagan.

The new addition is connected to the main hospital building adjacent to the existing elevator lobby and provides a new seven-stop elevator tower with two cabs serving Building One's basement up to the sixth floor levels. "This new elevator tower provides the desired separation of inpatient and outpatient/ visitor flow," said Flanagan. "The addition also provides an exterior glass corridor to connect the new elevator tower to the operating room (OR) at the second floor level so patients receive added privacy."

The façade of the addition was designed to match the look of the OR addition with the metal exterior panels, substantial glass and brick. “The brick provides a tie to the new OR addition as well as the original 1940’s structure,” said Flanagan. “Interior rooms are bright and airy with horizontal ribbon windows and vertical blinds for privacy.”

An important, but not readily visible part of the project is the \$5.5 million electrical deficiencies upgrade. “This part of the project provided for upgrades to the electrical equipment, provided redundancy to power distribution to the campus, and provided for additional electrical capacity for future projects to connect,” said Flanagan. “The electrical work is not something that anyone sees, but it is vital to the proper operation of the campus.”

Col. Samaris said he was grateful to the project partners for their support in getting the project accomplished successfully. “Our team of partners has done an excellent job of working together to complete this important project and doing so, almost seven months ahead of schedule,” he said. “We welcome continued partnerships of this kind through the Providence VAMC, the state of Rhode Island and our military services, to help support the vitally important military readiness of our nation.”

The Specialties Clinic and Behavioral Health Addition is only one of many projects the District has done for the VAMC. The New England District, partnered with VAMC Providence, has a past and current program of about \$52 million. “Besides this design-build project, we performed 16 designs with our A-E IDIQ Contracts,” said Flanagan. “One of which we issued for construction is also completed – the Pharmacy Expansion and Administration Space Renovation.”

The other 15 were issued by the VAMC, 12 of which are



Col. Charles Samaris (center) joins Sen. Jack Reed (right) and other officials in cutting the ribbon at the VA Hospital in Providence.



Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, speaks to a standing-room-only crowd during the ribbon cutting.

completed or will be completed by the end of this fiscal year, according to Flanagan. The District currently has one A-E design to renovate the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) at the New Bedford VA as well as a design-build project the District just issued to construct a new emergency department/intensive care unit/Hemodialysis addition.

Flanagan added that the level of performance by the construction team in Providence is also being demonstrated on the teams in Jamaica Plain, Brockton, and Bedford, Mass., Manchester, N.H. and West Haven, Conn. The New England District team members that make up the Providence VAMC Team are Flanagan, Jim Morocco, Tim Rezendes, Joel Bloom, Jonathan Van-Vliet, Susanne Grant, Randy LeCuyer, Jim Fielding and Bob Zwahlen. “With the huge infusion of funds and work, it is a tremendous credit to the construction team in Providence that has brought about this execution and success,” she said. “They have worked collaboratively with both the VA and the multiple contractors to keep things moving, work through the issues and challenges of an active hospital environment, and have maintained a positive working relationship with all involved.”

Other participants in the ribbon cutting were U.S. Senator Jack Reed, U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Congressman David Cicilline, Dr. Glen Gechlik Deputy Director, VISN 1 Network, Wendy Palazzo, Facilities Management Services, Vincent Ng, Providence VAMC Director, and Chaplain Dan Cottrell. New England District representatives that attended the event were Col. Samaris, Sean Dolan, Flanagan, Morocco and Rezendes.



Dona and Farrell McMillan cut the cake during the retirement luncheon.

Photos by Brian Murphy

## Chief of Engineering retires with over 40 years of service

After more than 40 years of federal service, Farrell McMillan, Chief Engineering/Planning decided to retire. More than 100 people joined McMillan and his family at the Minuteman Commons (formerly the Officer's Club) at Hanscom Air Force base on July 26 to celebrate his career and wish him well on his retirement.

Bobby Byrne, Chief, Programs, served as Master of Ceremonies during the event, welcoming the audience and introducing the presenters. The speakers at McMillan's lunch included Acting Division Engineer Col. Christopher Larsen, Middle East District Commander Col. John Christensen, John Bianco, Business Technical Division, NAD, Bill Scully, Scott Michalak, Don Hassett, Tony Mackos and Frank Fedele.

The speakers also made several presentations. Hassett presented him with a coin from Operation Red Dawn which signified the capture of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, which happened during their time together overseas. McMillan received a minuteman statue and power tools presented by Mackos. Fedele presented him with a silver engraved bowl, and Michalak presented him with a Bunker Hill plaque in appreciation of his many years of faithful and dedicated service to the Corps of Engineers and the nation.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, presented McMillan with his retirement certificate and pin.

McMillan joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in New England in 1975 following his graduation from the University of Rhode Island. He served five years with the European Division Corps of Engineers in Frankfurt, Germany, before returning to New England in August 1986.

He has held progressively responsible positions with the Corps, including Chief of the Water Control Division, Chief, Geotechnical and Water Management Branch, and Chief Engineering Management Branch. He was named Deputy Chief, Engineering/Planning Division in July 1999 and held that position until he became the Chief, Engineering/Planning Division in June 2005.

From December 2004 to April 2005, McMillan deployed to Gulf Region South District in Tallil AFB, Iraq. He served as the Area Engineer and provided supervision and support for a staff of 40 engineers and technicians executing more than 130 construction projects with a combined value in excess of \$300 million. He also successfully led a team of eight District employees to deploy with him to the Iraqi District.

From July 2010 to December 2010 McMillan deployed to



Col. Charles Samaris presents Farrell McMillan with his retirement certificate.



Farrell McMillan greets his guests prior to the presentations.

the Gulf Region District in Baghdad, Iraq. He served as Chief, Engineering and Construction Division, overseeing a \$700 Million Fiscal Year 2010 USACE Reconstruction Program in Iraq. He was responsible for supervision and support for a staff of more than 200 military and civilian members and oversaw all engineering and construction activities throughout Iraq using an Engineering Branch, three Area offices, and 10 resident offices to accomplish the mission.

McMillan served as New England District Dam and Levee Safety Officer. With that responsibility, he continued to ensure the structural and functional integrity of Corps dams and competent flood regulation at the District's 33 reservoirs, 70 miles of levees, and three hurricane barriers.

McMillan received numerous awards and accolades during his distinguished career to include Exceptional Performance Awards and Special Act Awards. Other awards include the NATO Medal, Civilian Combat Service Pin, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Commander's Award for Civil Service for protracted combat operations in support of Operation

Iraqi Freedom in April 2005 and the Superior Civilian Service Award for protracted combat operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn in December 2010.

In addition to his service to the nation as a Corps of Engineers employee, McMillan is also a Vietnam veteran and served three years with the U.S. Navy Seabees.

Family members who accompanied McMillan to the luncheon were his wife, Dona, sons Bradley and Bryan McMillan, daughter Shelby Chamberland and her husband Christopher, granddaughter Shannon McMillan and her boyfriend Matthew Silva.

The long list of retirees who came out to celebrate McMillan's career and welcome him into the New England District retirement community included Distinguished Civilian Gallery Members Dick Carlson and Dick Reardon. Other retirees were Joe Bocchino, Lt. Col. (ret) Michael Bradbury, Dave Dulong, Tony Firicano, Mark Geib, Perkins Gould, Paul Marinelli, Bill Mullen, George Sarandis, Col. (ret) Carl Sciple and Don Wood.



All of the attending retirees pause to pose for a picture during the retirement luncheon.



Eileen Hughes slices up her retirement cake during her retirement reception.

Photos by Brian Murphy

## Eileen Hughes bids New England District farewell after 30 years of federal service

More than 50 people made their way to the Massachusetts/Connecticut Room on July 25 to celebrate Eileen Hughes' 30 year career in the federal government and with the Corps in New England during a retirement reception.

Hughes began her career at the District in 1983 as an Accounting Technician in the Finance and Accounting Office. In 1999 she made a change and transferred to Office of Counsel to serve as a Legal Assistant. Then in 2004, Hughes made her final move when she accepted the position of Secretary to the District's Deputy Commander.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, assisted by Lt. Col. Steven Howell, New England District Deputy Commander, presented Hughes with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service in appreciation for her many years of loyal, dedicated and distinguished service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England. "The quality of her contributions during her long federal career is in the finest traditions of the U.S. Army and are worthy of this special recognition," said Lt. Col. Howell.

Col. Samaris also presented Hughes with her retirement certificate and gave her his personal thanks for the excellent work she did each day. "Every day when I walked into the

office, she was always happy about something," he said. "If there was anyone who deserved the opportunity to go out and have fun, it's her. We really appreciate you, Eileen."

Angie Vanaria, Secretary to the Commander, presented Hughes with jewelry as a parting gift from the District. Hughes briefly thanked everyone for coming to send her off before she cut the cake.



Eileen Hughes receives a Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Col. Charles Samaris.



Bobber the Water Safety Dog was a special guest at the festival.

Photos by Elisa Carey



Photo by Kevin Burke

Seasonal Park Ranger Gabe Lundgren explains how to use the Trivia Wheel to a child during the festival.

## Rangers, 'Bobber' promote water safety during festival

Cape Cod Canal team members Elisa Carey, Gabe Lundgren and Bobber the Water Safety Dog participated in the Plymouth Maritime Day event in Plymouth, Mass., July 14. The event celebrates the town's historic nautical traditions that date back to the Pilgrims when they landed in Plymouth in 1620.

Tens of thousands of people attended the event, many either passing by or stopping at the New England District's Water Safety Trailer. Those who chose to stop, and it is estimated there were at least 1,000 visitors to the trailer, were greeted by one of the Rangers and Bobber (the rangers took turns inside the costume). Little ones enjoyed meeting the dog and playing games at the trailer, all the while learning about water safety. "Children could win a coloring book for playing the trivia wheel," said Carey, who is not only a Canal Park Ranger, but also the Canal's Volunteer Coordinator.

Carey and Lundgren set up a small interactive fatal vision display that demonstrated to older visitors the dangers

of drinking while boating and recreating around water. "We also set up a personal flotation device (PFD) display and talked to visitors about properly fitting, pfd types and regulations for pfd's," said Carey. "On the table we put up a "know before you go" display using replica buoys. Kids could get a sticker for answering a couple of questions we asked them about the display."

In addition to the pfd display and game, the Canal Team ran a video throughout the day on properly wearing, fitting and choosing a life vest.

Bobber and the Canal Team were personally invited by the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, who were thrilled when they accepted. Bobber and the team knew it would be a good venue to get out the Water Safety message, which is so important to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "The trailer is such a good tool for attracting people and getting our message out," said Carey. "The event was a great way to help promote Water Safety!"



Crowds of people walk by the New England District Water Safety Trailer, with many stopping to pick up information and see Bobber.

Photo by Kevin Burke



Bikers ride the 10-mile Holland Trail event at East Brimfield and Westville Lake.

Photo by Tom Chamberland

## District, local partners host trail events at recreation areas

### By Park Ranger Tom Chamberland East Brimfield/Westville Lakes

Team members at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood damage reduction projects at East Brimfield Lake and Westville Lake hosted two trail events on June 23.

The first event was the first ever trail ride on the newly opened Lake Siog Pass, a 1.5 mile trail that connects to the Grand Trunk Trail in Brimfield. Approximately 22 riders of all ages took in the event that was organized by the Holland Trail Committee. The Grand Trunk Trail Blazers assisted the

Sturbridge Trail Committee with the trail ride. Participants had the opportunity to ride just two or five mile sections, or the complete 10 mile loop. The weather was cool and just perfect for a bike ride.

In addition, bike riders had the opportunity to have their bikes checked for free by a mechanic from the local bike shop. Later in the afternoon, the Grand Trunk Trail Blazers, along with the Sturbridge Trail Committee, hosted their first "bike and hike" event at Westville Lake. This event was rescheduled from June 2, National Trails Day, when it was rained out.

Some 28 participants enjoyed the

trails at Westville Lake and again, bike riders also had the opportunity to have their bikes checked for free by a mechanic from a local bike shop. Although the event took place, it was unfortunately cut short due to thunderstorms.

For both events, organizers said they were encouraged by the turnout and plan to make this an annual event. Assisting in these events and operating the Corps information table was Park Ranger Tom Chamberland. Chamberland presented short programs on the local history of the projects and handed out trail maps as well as offered some trail safety tips.





Children fasten life jackets provided by Buffumville Lake team members prior to entering the water.

Photo by Janice Lawrence

## Life Jacket Loaner Program at Buffumville Lake a hit!

**By Nicole Giles and Jamie Kordack**  
**Buffumville Lake**

Buffumville Lake Park in Charlton, Mass., launched its new Life Jacket Loaner Program on June 16<sup>th</sup> during a Water Safety Festival held at the beach in which the loaner kiosk was one station to show kids how to properly fit and use life jackets. And since that festival, adults and kids alike have been very impressed with the new selection of life saving jackets.

The Life Jacket Loaner Program is a national program being enacted at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) facilities. The Life Jacket Loaner Program provides the public with free use of life jackets on a first-come, first-served basis, while recreating at USACE lakes and waterways. Since 1998, 90 percent of drowning victims on U.S. Army Corps waters were not wearing life jackets. The goals for this program are to increase life jacket wear during water-based activities on USACE lakes and waterways as well as educate the visiting public on the importance of proper use and fit.

Forty-eight personal flotation devices (PFDs) were purchased in four sizes. Each size has its own unique color and label with "BVL Loaner" on the back. At the program launch, 12 life jackets were introduced with tremendous success one jacket of each size was added the following weekend for a

Water Safety Program to total 16. The rangers are finding that 16 jackets are more than adequate.

Our kiosk is based on an open cube shape designed by Ranger Jamie Kordack and Hodges Village Dam Volunteer Host Jim Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence and his wife, Janice Lawrence worked many hours to build, paint, and perfect the kiosk for opening day. The jackets rest on PVC pipes when dry and are put onto the drying rack below if returned wet. The kiosk has two open sides to allow enough ventilation for the jackets. This kiosk was built with durability and longevity in mind and thanks to our volunteers, our life jacket kiosk looks amazing!

With the help of rangers, park hosts, volunteers and parents, the loaner program is widely used by all in the park and information is readily available for parents. Parents have been very receptive to the loaner program and have given positive feedback to park staff. For every busy day in the park, all of the life jackets can be seen on children enjoying their day in the swimming area. Visitation at Buffumville Park during the months of June and July ranged between 1,091 to 3,656, Monday through Friday, and from 931 to 2,217 on Saturdays and Sundays. Jackets are inspected by park attendants and the closing ranger on a nightly basis. To staff amazement, the life jackets are returned each night in great condition.

## Remembering Bob Davis:

He touched the lives of many at District and in the Environmental Field

By Carol Ann Charette  
Programs/Project Management

As we look back at Bob Davis' life, we bid farewell to a dear friend, co-worker and consummate environmental scientist.

On Tuesday, May 29, many people from the District family stopped by to say farewell and pay tribute to a thoughtful, generous friend and dedicated co-worker who passed away after a long illness, May 21.

Bob was the consummate Environmental Specialist.

Bob had an extremely strong work ethic and a knack for demonstrating professional behavior. He was a major asset to the District, the Engineering/Planning Division and the Evaluation Branch. Not only did Bob handle all of the environmental coordination support for the Formerly Used Defense Site Program and Base Re-alignment and Closure Programs, he also provided support to the Superfund and FUSRAP Programs. He was passionate about his work, and he became the "go to guy" for FUDS and BRAC.

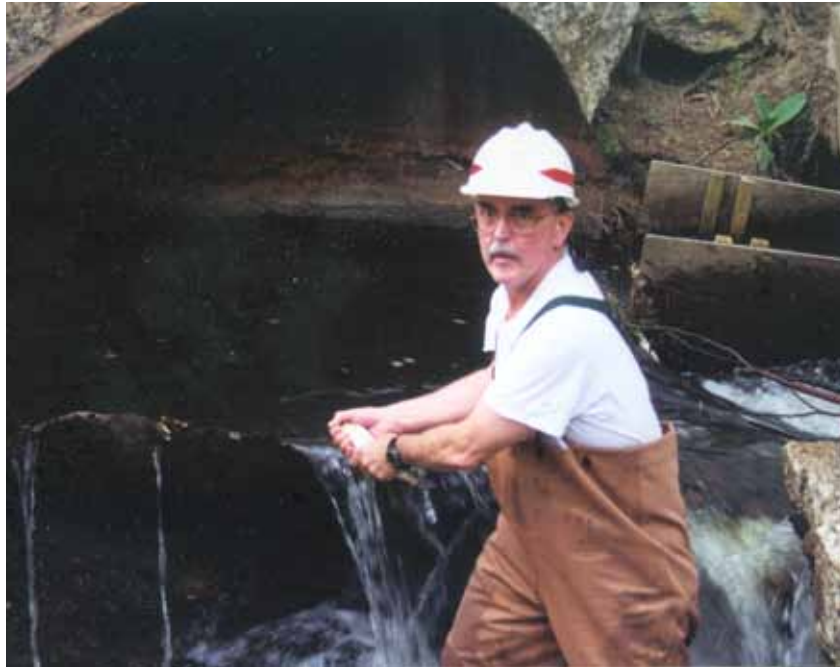
Bob had a wealth of knowledge of federal, state and local environmental regulations and an institutional knowledge dating back to the inception of many of the projects. When asked about a particular project, he could produce historical documentation no one else in the District could. Bob also never did anything superficially. He delved deep into his projects and knew them inside and out. He was energetic and enthusiastic about his work. He paid attention to detail, and was extremely thorough and thoughtful. In the workplace, Bob transformed himself into a walking/talking FUDS library. He was a true subject matter expert in his field and, when he was on a roll, it was often hard for anyone to get a word in edgewise. Bob also took on the role of technical lead as needed to support his projects. In the UST program, Bob conducted site visits, developed scopes of work, negotiated contracts, reviewed reports, and coordinated environmental aspects of the job with numerous regulatory agencies.

Dave Larsen stated, "It is hard to describe Bob's high level of enthusiasm. He thrived on his work. He referred to the UST project team as 'the cold case team,' since often there were

many years between project approval and implementation. He was committed to good environmental compliance. We spent many days in the field together. Working together, we developed camaraderie and synergy on the UST projects. He was dedicated to both his family and his job."

In Tracy Dorgan's words, "He was a smart, very hard working guy. You just had to mention something to Bob and he was off and running with it. He worked on things you didn't even know he was working on, until he brought you the product of his efforts. Bob was a treasure trove of knowledge and information."

Some "Bobisms" included "Performance, not promises." One of his internal PDT nicknames was Bob "The Hurricane" Davis due to his adamant, enthusiastic, machine gun speeches and high energy mannerisms. I know he seemed pleased when we called him that. Some folks were put off by his enthusiasm, but most all were appreciative as well and knew they were



Bob Davis on a site visit in an undated photo.

Photo provided by Carol Ann Charette

getting his honest efforts when he was on the project.

Greg Goepfert of NAD recalls Bob as follows, "He was so intelligent and passionate about his work, and he got his words out so quickly-- you'd be lucky if your ears worked fast enough to absorb his thoughts! His thoughts were usually on point and supportive of our Corps mission on our projects. His knowledge of 'bugs and bunnies,' plants, and all things related to ecology and environment was broad and impressive. It was this knowledge and passion, imparted during stakeholder meetings, information sessions and field work, that built a bridge of trust, enabling our projects to move forward in consonance with environmental stewardship. Bob Davis is remembered at New York District for furthering work at our Formerly Used Defense Sites, such as Fort Hancock, Fort Slocum, Morgan Depot, Raritan Arsenal, Fort Tilden, to name a few. He will be missed."

"Bob was a huge asset to the New England District FUDS Program and it will be some time before the void is completely filled," stated Gary Morin.

Gary went on to further describe his relationship with Bob. "What was so great in my mind about Bob was that he was such a character and as a result it was always interesting to talk with him about non-work related topics," he said. "I will forever miss our conversations about Bob's take on the Bruins, fishing, and life in general."

Mike Warminsky, UXB/Tidewater project manager for the three Martha's Vineyard Military Munitions Response projects, remembers Bob as, "someone who's passion for the project was evident from the first time he spoke...and spoke...and spoke...and yet the relationship with him never seemed like contractor versus the USACE - it always seemed to be as a multidisciplinary team partnering to complete the work in the safest most environmentally friendly manner. He was a big supporter of the KISS principle - (keep it simple stupid) and practiced what he preached. He was well respected within the regulatory community and he taught me a lot about dealing with threatened and endangered species from a practical perspective which was instrumental in the success of the project at Martha's Vineyard. He is truly missed as we complete the project reports...and as a fellow avid fisherman I wish him perpetual tight lines..."

**I will personally remember Bob** as a special person who is sorely missed as a friend, co-worker, and environmental team member. It all seemed so easy because Bob just did it. He took care of the environmental aspects of each project. Only now are his colleagues and PM's/TM's discovering how much work and detail went into what he did.

He made it seem so easy when in fact, it really wasn't. He was a professional. Bob took care of every little behind-the-scenes environmental detail that could make or break your project.

Bob was very dedicated. He was a special person who did so much 'below the radar'; most people weren't aware of all the intricacies and nuances associated with the environmental coordination aspects of projects.

During his illness, Bob continued to work on his projects without missing a beat. He kept on doing what he could within his capabilities without complaint. He never lost interest in his projects and his enthusiasm never waned. Bob would do his daily check in with me, at least three times a day, one of which was usually around 5 p.m. or later. Bob would do whatever it took to get the job done. We had a special rapport. We were friends and co-workers. He was diligent and fastidious. As he would say, "We get the job done."

Sheila Harvey will forever miss him, the man she nicknamed "BD." Sheila stated, "I am grateful to have had the privilege of knowing him and I know I am a much better, more positive person for having him in my life. When I think of Bob, what comes to my mind was his amazing quality of never-ceasing positive, upbeat attitude. I never saw him down or talking negatively. No matter what was going on in his professional or personal life, he always maintained a

positive attitude. He was a very special person, a kind and gentle soul. Really one-of-a-kind".

Jay Mackay stated the following, "Bob left a void in the Evaluation Branch that will never be filled and his enthusiasm for his work in the fisheries, eco-risk and DERP arenas will never be matched. Beyond his professional endeavors, Bob is truly missed on a personal level. Fondly known as 'Hurricane Bob' by his co-workers, his ability to energize the office was legendary, bolstered with phrases such as 'no problems, only solutions' and 'busy shaking the trees.' We are all fortunate to have known Bob on both a personal and professional level."

Bill Hubbard stated, "Bob had many accomplishments, from DERP to Watertown Arsenal and numerous fisheries investigations in between. All of his District family will miss him. And each week when I am at various meetings, his

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**'His legacy will remain as someone that made a difference in the ecology of the region.'**

*- Bill Hubbard*

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"professional family" in agencies and NGO's stop me and tell me how much he meant to them. His legacy will remain as someone that made a difference in the ecology of the region. He has truly improved our environmental well being."

Bob is survived by his wife Sharon Georgi Davis, and his two sons, Robert William Davis, Jr. and Andrew Thomas Davis, his mother, Grace Davis, and five brothers and sisters: Laura Dellaripa, David Davis, Michael Davis, Frank Davis, and Mary Tucker. Bob resided with his family in Raynham, Mass.

Born on July 6, 1951, Robert William Davis grew up in East Hartford, Conn., graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor's Degree in Aquatic Sciences, and earned his Master Degree from Central Michigan University. Bob worked for Lawler, Matusky and Skelly Engineers, a private research firm for 14 years and Charles T. Main Associates, in Boston, Mass., for a short time before taking a position with the New England District U. S. Army Corps of Engineers as an Environmental Resource Specialist, where he was employed for 20 years.

Bob was an avid fisherman and outdoorsman. He was very active in his community, working with the Boy Scouts Troop 79, volunteering as an Assistant and later as a Scoutmaster, and coaching Babe Ruth baseball and Raynham Youth Soccer for many years. Bob was a soccer referee for the past 15 years and served as Vice-President of the South Shore Soccer League for several years.

He also served on the Taunton River Watershed Alliance as a science advisor and remained on the Executive Board for many years afterward.

We miss him and will treasure his memory!

# Dredging up the past



Photo by C.J. Allen

Joan Gardner (from left) and Farrell McMillan talk with Col. Thomas Koning, District Engineer, and Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers, during Lt. Gen. Flowers visit to Concord Park in March 2003.

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