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US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

Volume 42, No. 6

# Yankee Engineer

March 2008

## District, partners cut the ribbon on unique Thermal Test Facility

New England District representatives and their partners celebrated the successful opening of a most unique Thermal Test Facility, March 7 at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) in Natick, Mass. The facility will conduct research that will benefit not only U.S. Servicemen and women but also civilian workers involved in rescue operations.

The New England District con-

structed the facility to support the Department of Defense in the evaluation of the effect of flame and thermal threats and hazards against protective clothing and individual equipment. The facility will also assist in the development of new and improved materials for flame and thermal protection of the individual Soldier.

According to a NSRDEC official, the thermal test facility is the only known facility in the nation that has the

capability to test and evaluate the thermal performance of milligram quantities of materials through full scale systems such as clothing and tents. The new facility provides NSRDEC scientists and engineers with unprecedented research capabilities for the evaluation of flames and thermal protective materials, clothing and equipment.

“There are Soldiers on the battlefield, people in the ships, folks who are  
*(continued on page 6)*

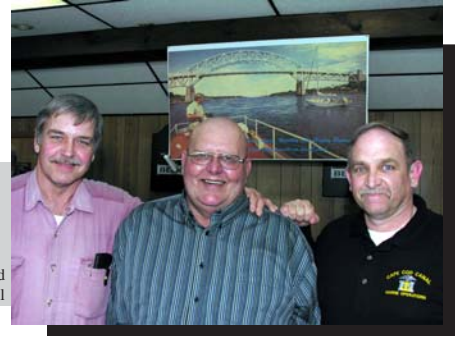


### Just passing through

*Every year, the MAYFLOWER II gets towed to D.N. Kelley & Son Shipyard in Fairhaven, Mass., to get the bottom painted and some paint touch up work done before the start of tourist season in Plymouth, Mass. In this March 11 picture the newly painted MAYFLOWER II is on her way back to Plymouth. (Photo by Kevin Burke)*

# Yankee Voices

Tom Greenway, Jerry Joyner and  
Roger Mathurin, Cape Cod Canal



## Safety at home

If you have scheduled estimates from contractors or lined up a visit from a service company, ask for the name of the technician who will be doing the work and if the employee will be wearing a badge or a uniform. That way, you'll be certain that the person is legitimate. If you haven't scheduled a visit, be wary of anyone who solicits access to your house or yard. Even if the person is wearing a uniform or presents an ID badge, ask for the person's name, lock the door, and call the company. Most utility companies will not send personnel to homes without prior notification. (*Ideas Unlimited*)

## Words worth repeating

"It's not what's happening to you now or what has happened in your past that determines who you become. Rather, it's your decisions about what to focus on, what things mean to you, and what you're going to do about them that will determine your ultimate destiny."  
- **Anthony Robbins**

## Employees of the month

**Yau Wing** was named the WE Committee's February 2008 Employee of the Month. Because of staff turnover in the Resource Management Office at the Europe District, (NAU) there was an urgent need for an experienced and knowledgeable accountant to help them out during the entire first quarter of the fiscal year. Yau willingly stepped in and helped them get through this difficult period. He was able to immediately step in and perform day-to-day duties, provide advice to the current NAU staff and develop SOPs that are now making it easier for the new NAU accountants coming on board to do their jobs efficiently. During the time he was in Europe, Yau continued to perform his usual research and analysis for the New England District.

**Cori Rose** of Regulatory Division was selected as the WE Committee's Employee of the Month for March 2008. Rose was recognized as a tireless worker who knows and does her job excellently. She is able to find time to do lots of public outreach, while still being generous in giving great support to her peers despite her enormous workload. She's been assigned the most challenging of the difficult projects, which offers her peers some relief from their already burgeoning workloads. Recently she's taken the lead in implementing the new and complicated jurisdictional determination criteria enacted and put them into practice.

## Sympathy

to **Ruth Cormier**, Construction/Operations, and her family on the loss of her mother, **Ruth Kitowicz**, Feb. 14.

## Avoiding dryer fires

Every year, there are more than 15,000 residential fires cause by clothes dryers, typically a result of lint buildup.

DuctBusters, a duct-cleaning company, recommends that home owners clean their dryer vent at least once a year, and says that at times it may be necessary to do it more often, particularly when:

- You are doing heavy loads, such as towels or jeans, which take a very long time to dry.
- You notice that clothes are hotter than usual at the end of the cycle. (*Ideas Unlimited*)

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# Commander's Corner:

## We're looking for a few good volunteers

by Col. Curtis L. Thalken  
District Commander



This month I'd like to spend a few moments asking everyone once again to consider volunteering for a deployment. USACE remains heavily committed around the world and in most cases the folks demonstrating USACE's resolve are volunteers.

I'm proud to say the members of New England District have provided a constant stream of volunteers for several years. In fact we currently have four individuals deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism -- three in Afghanistan (John Murner, Joe Moyer and Adam Burnett) and one in Iraq (John Manning). We also have two supporting Katrina Recovery Efforts (Mark Anderson and John Connolly). To date, we have had a total of 48 deploy to support the GWOT and 75

to Katrina recovery efforts.

However, there is still plenty of work yet to be done and therefore the need for additional volunteers to take the place of those deployed remains. For those interested, both the Gulf Region Division (<http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/index.asp>) and Afghan Engineer District (<http://www.aed.usace.army.mil/>) have websites where you can see what they are currently working on. The New Orleans District web site also has information available both on the efforts and the Hurricane Protection Office's work in and around the city.

Likewise, those interested in volunteering to support our District Base Development Team should contact the District Emergency Operations for more information. This coming hurricane season our District National Water Team is the lead district for the delivery of water in support of FEMA for not only hurricane response but any other national disaster, so if you are interested in supporting that team contact either Emergency Operations or Mike Keegan.

As always, thanks for everything you do each and every day to help protect the people and environment of New England and to make the District a better place to work.

**Essayons!**



## Vernal Pool Workshop

*Four Corps Park Rangers, 12 Regulatory staff members, two P/E-Evaluation Branch staff members, two Minuteman National Park Rangers and two National Park Service Rangers participated in a Vernal Pool workshop led by Aram Calhoun of the University of Maine on March 20. After a morning lecture, the afternoon was spent checking out three vernal pools nearby - two in Lexington and one in Lincoln at the Minuteman National Park. (Photo by Lou Sideris)*



*Kurt Mintell*

# Warriors face Transition

**L**ife can change in an instant...

One moment you're doing your job, part of a team focused on the business at hand and then... that horrible instant when nothing will ever be the same again. That instant happens to many of our fighting men and women in the armed forces. In 2006, that instant happened to two Soldiers now assigned to an Army health care unit in Concord, Mass., -- Mike Pacheco and Kurt Mintell when they were on separate deployments in Iraq. But sometimes when that instant happens, and seemingly life will never be the same again, miracles happen.

The Department of Army wants the lives of its wounded service members to be whole and in 2004 eight Community Based Health Care Organizations (CBHCO) were created with one mission -- to help service members like Pacheco, a Major in the U.S. Army Reserves, and Mintell, a Sergeant in the Connecticut Army National Guard -- move on to the next moment in their lives. And now the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District is assisting the CBHCO of Massachusetts in a first of its kind program that will assist many of the casualties of the battlefield by providing opportunities for meaningful work assignments that complement their medical care and recovery program.

The program allows Soldiers wounded in the Global War on Terrorism an opportunity to return home, receive medical care locally while recovering in a familiar atmosphere surrounded by family and friends and, whenever possible, gain meaningful employment. While most Soldiers in this program return to local armories or reserve centers for individual work assignments, sometimes something special happens.

"Our population is National Guard and Reserve," explained Maj. Mark O'Clair, Commander of the Massachusetts CBHCO. "These are all part-time soldiers, so they all have civilian jobs outside of the military."

While the Soldiers convalesce, they are still being paid by the U.S. Army and still have to report to a work assignment when not going to medical appointments. Realizing that some Soldiers would respond better to a work environment similar to their civilian occupations, O'Clair turned to the New England District for assistance.

"We developed the Warrior Workplace Program so when Soldiers



arrive at Maj. O'Clair's unit, he would pass their names and skill sets to me and I would contact the District leadership to see if they had work available – the response was immediate and positive," said Mike Russo, Project Manager for the New England District Warrior Workplace Program.

...

When Mintell wasn't serving his country in the 2/136th, 34th Infantry Division, he was a carpenter. He was used to working with his hands and being outdoors. Under the Warrior Workplace Program, Mintell, a Connecticut resident, works at the District's Thomaston Dam on various projects located in Thomaston, Conn., but only when time allows.

"First and foremost, the wounded Soldiers must take care of themselves," said O'Clair. "Medical appointments come first, and when they have time, they report to their Corps of Engineers work assignment."

New England District supervisors know ahead of time what the Soldier's skill sets are as well as any limitations.

"The good thing is the jobs that we've set up through the Corps of Engineers allows the Soldiers to do functional tasks that they can see success and actually accomplish something," said 1st Sgt. Dennis Donlan of the CBHCO. "A lot of times if

they go back to an armory they can't do their normal job and they sit for hours answering a phone. With Soldiers like Mintell, who are used to being outdoors, he's actually looking at construction jobs and doing things and interacting with people, which is a huge benefit for his recovery."

Pacheco, a New Hampshire resident, is working at the District's Edward MacDowell Dam. He is currently working on an emergency response exercise for the Corps and coordinating it with the state of New Hampshire. He said that he has had an excellent experience with the Warrior Workplace Program.

"It's been tremendous," he said. "I think a major part of convalescing is being able to be with family. The CBHCO is taking care of all my needs. They have managed my medical care very closely and it has worked out very, very well."

Pacheco, who was a Civil Affairs Officer with the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion and is a civilian contractor for the Department of Homeland Security, also had high praise for his Corps of Engineers coworkers.

"The people at the Corps are just so tremendous, I feel a little guilty that I can't be there every day because of all the medical appointments I have to go to," he said. "They've been so helpful, I kind of wish I was more heavily involved

than I can be."

"The working relationship between the Massachusetts CBHCO and the New England District is the first in the nation between our two agencies, and has worked so well, we'd like to expand it to different Corps Districts with New England's help," said O'Clair. "We have 170 Soldiers throughout New England, New York and New Jersey, so we have to find a geographical location for a Corps facility that's appropriate and within commuting distance of the Soldier's home."

The Warrior Workplace Program was established by the New England District and the CBHCO to complement existing medical, counseling, advocacy and family support programs.

To realize this joint commitment, said Russo, the District established both a database that identifies each participating Soldier, their home of record and their skill sets -- then finding opportunities with the Corps of Engineers throughout New

England and New York.

"Assisting our warriors back from combat transition into the civilian workforce and rebuild a career is tough under any circumstance -- but it's even tougher to ad-

just to life after a serious injury," said Col. Curtis L. Thalken, Commander, New England District. "We have more than a duty to assist these amazing individuals; we are the proponents of the Warrior Workplace Program and we are advocates for its expansion throughout the Army Corps of Engineers. This is just part of our commitment -- to those Soldiers who have served, sacrificed and are now recovering from their injuries -- to provide the opportunity for these warriors to once again succeed."

...

For two of the Soldiers in the Warrior Workplace Program, that horrible instant that changed their lives is over and they are moving on.

At the end of March, Pacheco will complete his convalescence, transition out of the military and return to Baghdad as a contractor for the State Department.

Mintell will not be going back to his job as a carpenter when he completes the Warrior Workplace Program -- he will be staying on as a permanent employee with the New England District. "I like working for the Corps," he said. "I like the outside part and the Federal end of it. It feels like I'm actually still serving..."

... and life can indeed change in an instant and small miracles continue to happen everyday.

**'I like working for the Corps. I like the outside part and the federal end of it. It feels like I'm actually still serving.'**

**- Kurt Mintell**

# ...Thermal test facility ribbon cutting

*Continued from page 1*

working every day and facing danger and they think about fire, it's part of their every day lives," said Dr. Marilyn Freeman, Director, Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center. "They ask themselves, 'is my clothing going to be safe? Am I going to be able to make it out of here when that IED goes off and the flames that ensue? Will my uniform catch up in flames?' We can't keep Soldiers out of harm's way every day. What we do is come up with the best way to keep them as safe as possible and to bring them home from wherever they are serving as whole as we possibly can."

Dr. Freeman stressed that the tests that will be conducted at the facility will benefit civilians as well. "This is not just about the military, although that is our primary focus, but this facility also has other aspects which will allow us to test material that will benefit first responders, firefighters and other rescue personnel."

"The Thermal Test Facility is a unique research building with a scope of 8,266 square feet," said Ken Paton, Project Manager. "The facility is equipped with a materials analysis lab, combustion monitoring and analysis lab, flammability testing/thermal barrier lab, laser lab and a propane fuel-fired test cell."

According to Paton, the propane fuel-fired test cell is the heart of the facility and is constructed of 12-inch thick by 24-foot high concrete walls, and contains multiple test fixtures. The test cell is equipped with a complex array of burners supported by a sophisticated touch screen computer control system. The propane fuel cell supports the evaluation of the combustion and thermal characteristics of full scale systems in a propane fire that is repro-

ducible with controlled intensity and duration.

Scientists in the control room of the propane fuel cell can safely operate the propane delivery systems for the fire pit and stationary manikin. Scientists can record fire testing events and provide real time direct and close observa-



Photos by Brian Murphy

**Propane torch system is tested at the new Thermal Test Facility. Col. Curtis Thalken (inset) and Bill Scully (right) tour the facility.**

tion of each system either through the control room window or by using four closed circuit cameras to view the entire test in the complete protection of the control room.

One of the tests performed in the propane fuel cell is the ASTM F1930 simulation using an instrumented manikin. A stationary manikin is dressed in full-sized clothing and is then completely engulfed by flames that are delivered by an eight nozzle, vertically arrayed, propane torch system.

The test provides scientists with information on burn degree and the percentage of the body that is burned as a result of the interaction of the clothing system materials, garment design, garment layering and component

interfaces.

The propane fire pit with its nine below grating ribbon burners is used for testing tents and items of individual equipment. Somewhat similar in configuration to the fire pit is the walking manikin test where an instrumented manikin attached to the room's traversing mechanism allows the manikin to pass over eight propane fired sand burners where the flames project upward through the sand floor. The thermal oven will use an instrumented manikin to assess convective heat transfer through full clothing systems.

The New England District awarded a construction contract on March 22, 2006 to J&J Construction of Lowell, Mass., for approximately \$5.5 million. NSRDEC personnel took beneficial occupancy on Dec. 7, 2007. The new facility will be fully operational and testing in September.

Brig. Gen. Mark Brown, commanding general, U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center (SSC) and Program Executive Officer Soldier; Rocco DiRico, deputy district director, Office of Congressman Edward Markey, Secretary Daniel O'Connell, secretary of Housing and Economic Development for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Dr. Freeman performed the ribbon cutting.

New England District representatives who attended the ceremony were Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, William Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, and Jim Conway, Resident Engineer for the District and Timothy Coleman, Project Engineer for the District.



# Tom Fredette: Marine Scientist and hit songwriter?

*Tom Fredette of Regulatory Division is not a famous songwriter, but if his new CD becomes a hit, he soon could be.*

His song, titled, "25 Beautiful Years," is a tribute to couples married one quarter of a century. The idea came to him just as he was drifting off to sleep.

"It began when a family conversation turned to the 'Happy Birthday To You,' song and how it has become ubiquitous," said Fredette. "I was asking myself one night as I was falling asleep, which other life events such as holidays might or might not have songs?"

As he counted off holidays like another would count off sheep before sleep, the 25th Wedding Anniversary inspiration jolted him awake long enough to write down some lines for the new song. "I came up with a number of verses of what eventually became the chorus," said Fredette. "It just seemed to be something that might work if I could get some additional help with it."

Although Fredette enjoys music and even sang in choruses in high school and college, songwriting is not something that usually comes naturally to him. "Being scientifically educated, this creative storm was definitely out of my usual area of skills," he said.

He quickly enlisted the help of his son, Timothy, who is a musician. The younger Fredette helped his father write some more words and came up with the basic melody that he put down on a short, audio recording. Despite the unusual

request, Timothy didn't think anything of helping his father with the song. "I think he helped me to humor me," laughed Fredette. "I'm always coming up with different crazy ideas. I think he just saw it as one of those ideas."

Soon, it became apparent that Fredette's creative spark might go somewhere. He also recruited his nephew Joe Parrillo who saw the draft during a family event and liked it. Parrillo, a musician/songwriter/high school guidance counselor, took the Fredettes' initial work and used it as a chorus and

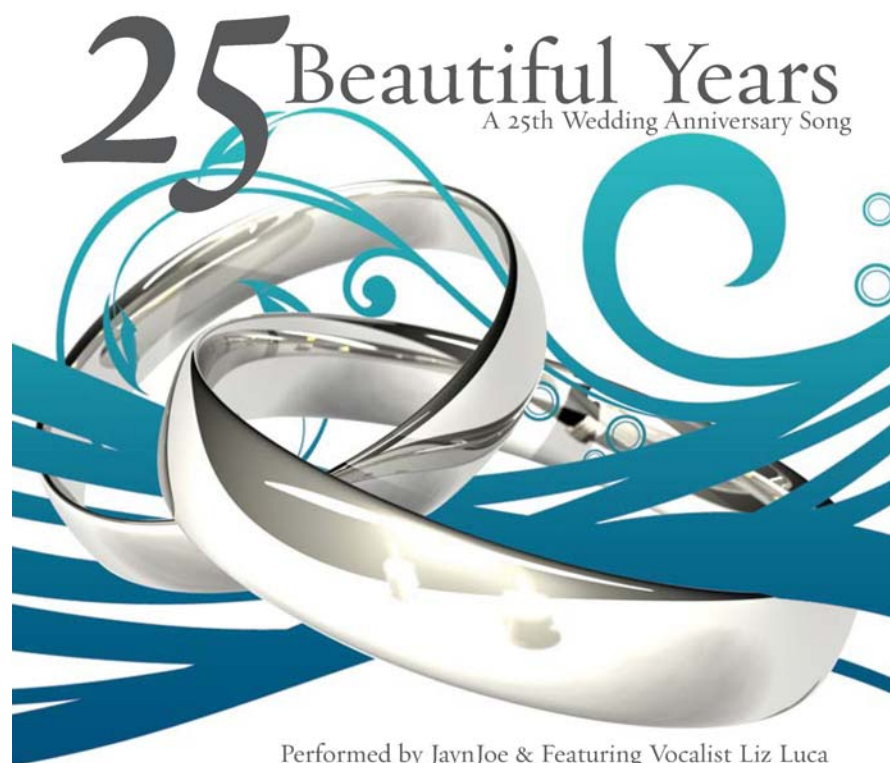
added verses around it. "Joe, his musical partner Jay LaCroix and Joe's sister, Liz Luca, then recorded the song."

Songs, even those born in pure inspiration, take time to develop. Fredette's tune took a year and a half, from concept to final recorded product, to complete.

The song is currently on sale through Ebay, and there are possible future opportunities to find it in party and card stores. Fredette admits that it will be a challenge to get his song played on radio stations. "This is a bit

of a niche song, so it may not have the same sort of appeal as a Top 40 song you would hear on the radio," he said. "But with that said, the recording features a beautiful, touching duet between Jay and Liz, with a rich accompaniment played and arranged by Joe."

When asked if he would consider another songwriting venture, Fredette revealed that a 50th Anniversary song is in the works. Although "25 Beautiful Years" came too late as a gift to his wife (the couple has been married 31 years) Fredette has plenty of time to polish up his sequel to present to his wife when their Golden Anniversary arrives.



Performed by JaynJoe & Featuring Vocalist Liz Luca



Chris DeMello helps Jerry Joyner unwrap his shadow box gift that Larry Davis presented to him during the retirement ceremony.

## American hero retires with 32 years of service

*Gerald “Jerry” Joyner has been serving his country, both in the military and with the Corps of Engineers, New England District for nearly 32 years. When he decided to join the retirement community, nearly 60 friends and family members gathered at the American Legion Hall in Plymouth, Mass., on Feb. 29, to celebrate his distinguished career and to wish him well.*

Roger Mathurin served as Master of Ceremonies at the retirement lunch and talked about Joyner’s impressive federal career. Prior to joining the Corps of Engineers as a small craft operator, Joyner served in the U.S. Navy for four years during the Vietnam War.

During his tour, he served on a destroyer that had gun line duty. After serving his country in the military, Joyner decided to continue to serve in the public sector by joining the Corps in New England at the Cape Cod Canal. During his time with the District, he embodied the Army Values, especially courage and selfless service. He came to the aid of over 280 recreational and commercial vessels when they failed to successfully navigate through the treacherous waters of the Cape Cod Canal.

He also volunteered without hesitation as a first responder to New York as one of the first crews during 9/11, and went to the aid of Gulf Coast residents during recovery efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Fran Donovan, retired Canal Manager, presented Joyner with the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service for the outstanding work he performed during his career.

Frank Ciccone, the retired Engineer in Charge, presented the man of honor with a Bunker Hill Award.

Larry Davis, the Acting Canal Manager for Frank Fedele, presented Joyner with a shadow box filled with a U.S. Flag and various medals and decorations that he received over his career with the Navy and the Corps of Engineers to include Civilian Achievement, Humanitarian Service, two Vietnam medals, a National Defense and a Korean campaign medal.

Mathurin gave Joyner a Marine Operations plaque before Dick Carlson, Chief, Construction/Operations officially retired Joyner by presenting him with his retirement certificate.

Joyner received less official but very enjoyable gifts to include a WE



Committee mug, a Harley Davidson piggy bank, a Harley Davidson hat, a Harley Davidson model, a DVD, and a gift certificate to Barnes and Noble.

Members of Joyner's family that attended the luncheon were his wife, Connie, his sons Nate (with fiancée Ashley), Kyle, Kalum (with girlfriend Megan) and Jeremy. Joyner's other son, Matt, was unable to attend.

Besides, Donovan and Ciccone, retirees that attended the luncheon to welcome Joyner into the retirement community were Bob Orman, Fred Danhauser, Varoujan (Gabby) Garabedian, Jack Trant, Wayne Mello, AlDeGregorio, Bill Haskell, Dave Gove, and Leon Cremonini.

Joyner has already done some traveling in his retirement and hopes there is a Harley Davidson motorcycle in his near future.



Photos by Kevin Burke

*Jerry Joyner receives his retirement certificate from Dick Carlson.*



*Jerry Joyner (left) enjoys lunch with family and friends before the retirement ceremony begins.*



*Retiree Fran Donovan presents Joyner with his Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.*



*Roger Mathurin makes a presentation while Joyner and retiree Frank Ciccone look on. (left) Larry Davis wishes Joyner well during the retirement ceremony. (above)*

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## UMASS Boston professor speaks during Black History Month celebration

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### *The Black Employment Program and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office held an event celebrating Black History Month on Feb. 21 in the Concord Park Theatre.*

Professor John H. Bracey, Jr. of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst served as the keynote speaker. Bracey's talk was in keeping with this year's theme, "Carter G. Woodson and the origins of Multiculturalism."

Col. Curtis Thalken, New England District Commander, welcomed the audience. "The multiculturalism of our times is built on the intellectual and institutional labors of Carter G. Woodson and the association he established," he said. "He should be known not simply as the Father of Black History, but as Pioneer of Multiculturalism as well."

After Bracey gave his presentation, Col. Thalken and new Black Employment Program Manager Steve Dunbar, presented the keynote speaker with a certificate of appreciation for participating in the district event.

Carter Godwin Woodson is often referred to as the "Father of Black History." He was born in 1875 in New Canton, Va., to parents who were freed slaves. Although he entered high school in his late teens, he was an excellent

student and went on to college to earn several degrees. He became one of the first African Americans to earn a PhD from Harvard University in 1912.

Woodson dedicated his life to the field of African American history and its promotion to the public, especially in schools.

He helped found the association for the study of Negro Life in History, which later became the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History in 1915.

In 1916, Woodson established the scholarly publication, "Journal of Negro History," and formed the African American-owned Associated Publishers Press in 1921.

Woodson lobbied schools and other organizations to participate in Negro History Week, which began in February 1926. The week was later expanded and renamed Black History Month. To aid educators in the teaching of Black History, Woodson created the Negro History Bulletin in 1937. Carter G. Woodson passed away on April 3, 1950.



*Professor John H. Bracey, Jr., speaks to New England District employees during the Black History Month celebration.*



# Annual Chili Fest a big hit at District

Nothing cuts through a chill you get on a cold winter's day like a nice, steaming hot bowl of chili.

The Work Environment Committee not only provided an opportunity for New England District employees and Community based health care organization (CBHCO) members to get that chili, but also for them to vote on the Best Chili in the District.

Eight cooks competed for the title of Best Chili in the District during the WE Committee's Chili Fest 2008 contest. The annual event, which has become a wildly popular staple to the District's January calendar, drew more than 75 judges to the Concord Park Cafeteria for a sample of the competing chef's culinary concoctions.

"We had some great dialogue amongst the judges as they tasted and compared preferences," said Raimo Liias, WE



*Sgt. 1st Class Edmond Groh of the CHBCO gets ready to dish out his prize winning chili. Groh took third place in the contest.*

Committee Chair and vote counter. "Some were very astute and took copious notes as they tasted each entry."

The competition was fierce, but in the end when all the ballots were counted, Tim Beauchiman took the title of Best District Chili and a gift certificate for \$25 to the WE Committee store. Thom Davidson took second place and received a \$10 certificate, followed closely by Sgt. 1st Class Edmond Groh of the CHBCO. "First place was a comfortable margin, but the competition was almost a dead heat for our second and third place finishes," said Liias.

Honorable mentions for their tasty dishes went to Col. Andrew Nelson, Zina Cassulo-Henderson, Linda Lindell, Bob Meader and the District's Café Operator, Steve from Chipmunks.

## New England District collects 'Cell Phones for Soldiers'

A boost in a service member's morale is sometimes just a phone call away. For those fortunate enough to be able to speak with family members from time to time while they are fighting the War Against Terrorism, it is a welcome reprieve to hear a familiar voice at the other end of the phone line. But for every service member who has the resources to phone home, there are still many others who cannot.

Jackie DiDomenico, working with the District's Work Environment Committee, recognized the need for Soldiers to contact friends and family at home and coordinated with the Cell Phones for Soldiers Program to collect old phones and turn them into calling cards. The Cell Phones for Soldiers program sells the phones to a company, called ReCellular, which pays the Program enough for a one hour calling card for each phone.

DiDomenico, who is the District's Equal Employment Opportunity Manager, came up with the idea when she saw a collection box at her local gym. "I didn't know anything about the organization, so I checked it out online when I got home," she said. "It seemed like a really good way to support the troops and I felt it was something that we could do here at the District."

With the WE Committee's support, DiDomenico set up a collection box in the Concord Park lobby for a month-long drive. It wasn't long before the cell phones began pouring in from New England District employees and members of the Massachusetts Community Based Health Care Organization (CBHCO). "We've collected over 200 phones, with many of them donated by members of the CBHCO," she said. "I'm very happy with the number of phones we've collected for our Troops."

Cell Phones for Soldiers was

founded in 2004 by Norwell, Mass., teens Robbie and Brittany Berquist when they decided that they wanted to help the Troops stay in touch with loved ones. The two young people took \$21 of their own money to found the registered 501c3 nonprofit organization. Since its inception, Cell Phones for Soldiers has raised almost \$1 million in donations and have distributed more than 400,000 pre-paid calling cards to overseas service members.

DiDomenico is pleased that more than 200 Soldiers will be able to talk to their families thanks to the efforts of the WE Committee and would like to try to help more Troops. "I would love it if we could do the phone drive annually, but it would be even better to leave a collection box out permanently," she said. "As people get new phones, they can recycle them with us and more Soldiers will get calling cards."

## Dredging up the past . . .



*Dottie Bolduc (center) mingles with Paul Howard, Brian Valiton and other guests at her retirement luncheon in this June 3, 1999 photo. Bolduc, who worked in Regulatory, had 16 years of federal service.*

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