

# Yankee Engineer

Building Strong

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 46, No. 1 October 2011



*Broad Meadows Restoration Project*  
Story on page 8

# Yankee Voices



Farrell McMillan and Paul Marinelli

## Sympathy

...to Construction/Operations retiree **Claire Sullivan** on the passing of her husband of 45 years, **Raymond "Sully" Sullivan**, on Sept. 6.

...to **Townsend Barker**, Engineering/Planning, on the passing of his father, **Edward Gilman Barker**, on Sept. 11. The elder Mr. Barker was a World War II veteran and served with the Army Air Corps training as a pilot.

...to the family of Real Estate retiree **Bob Abbott**, who passed away on Oct. 13.

## Words Worth Repeating

"Eliminate your negative qualities. Develop your positive ones. You can't win with the checkmark in the wrong place."

- **M. Winnetter**

"Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing."

- **Benjamin Franklin**

"Knowledge is rooted in all things--the world is a library."

- **Lakota proverb**

## Don't let the office fridge become a health hazard

You think your office refrigerator is bad? In 2009, a San Jose, Calif., office building was evacuated and seven people went to the hospital when one employee decided to clean out a long-neglected refrigerator.

The mixture of mold and cleaning chemicals triggered a hazardous incident, according to a CNN report.

Your refrigerator may not be that dangerous, but for the sake of everyone's health and safety you should take steps to prevent a similar crisis.

Here are some basic steps for cleaning the office fridge without risking ecological disaster:

- **Clean spills immediately.** Instead of crying over spilled milk, or spaghetti sauce, wipe it up when it's easy to remove, before lingering odors are created.
- **Notify the workforce.** Set up a schedule for cleaning the refrigerator, and notify employees a day or so ahead of time. Tell them that spoiled food will be discarded, and advise them to put their names and dates on meals or snacks they're storing.
- **Remove food first.** Put perishables in a cooler. Keep a garbage bag handy to dispose of anything gross.
- **Remove drawers and shelves.** Pull out everything you can. You want to get to every inch of the interior, especially grooves and hard-to-reach areas where waste can fall and turn ugly. Wash out the drawers and shelves in the sink.
- **Use the right cleaning solution.** You should probably avoid a heavy chemical cleaning. A mixture of water, baking soda and possibly vinegar will eliminate grime, germs, and odors.
- **Don't forget the freezer.** Empty out the ice tray and clear the freezer as well, putting anything you want to save into a cooler nearby. Wipe down all surfaces thoroughly.
- **Let surfaces dry.** If possible leave the doors open and allow the unit to air dry. Otherwise, use paper towels to remove any dampness from the interior.
- **Soak up odors.** A box of baking soda, or the type of charcoal used for houseplants, can absorb odors and keep the inside of the unit smelling fresh until your next cleaning. (*First Draft Magazine*)



# Commander's Corner:

## Character ... At the Heart of every Great Team!

by Col. Charles P. Samaris  
District Commander



*"Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations [and organizations] alike."*

— Theodore Roosevelt

New England Team:

Nearing 90 days in command of this great district, I am even more excited than I was on day one. In this month's Yankee

Engineer, you'll read about some of the great people, projects, and events that contribute so much to the fabric and reputation of our organization. Whether it's the retirement of a committed expert and leader...

or the environmental and educational contributions of a coastal marsh restoration project...or the recognition of the Fallen Warriors of one of our great New England states...the stories are all examples of, "doing the right thing, the right way."

This concept, my Teammates, is at the core of strong individual and organizational character. And character is at the heart of every great team.

Character, as defined in most dictionaries, is: 1) the aggregate of features and traits that form the individual nature of some person or thing, 2) moral or ethical quality: *a (person) of fine, honorable character*, 3) qualities of honesty, courage, or the like; integrity, 4) the complex of mental and ethical traits marking and often individualizing a person, group, or nation; moral excellence and firmness, 5) Character refers especially to moral qualities, ethical standards, principles, and the like: *a (person) of sterling character*.

Field Manual (FM) 6-22, Army Leadership, describes what an Army leader is: a person of character, presence, and intellect. The manual dedicates an entire chapter to "Leader Character," articulating Army Values, empathy,

Warrior Ethos, beliefs, and ethics. It defines character as "a person's moral and ethical qualities; it (character) helps (a leader or person) determine what is right and gives a leader (or person) motivation to do what is appropriate, regardless of the circumstances or the consequences."

At this point you might be tempted to ask, "So what?" Well, in the first two "Commander's White Board" sessions held with all of our supervisors, character was a key topic. Why? Because character counts...a lot! Character is the foundation of transparency and trust. Transparency fosters open communication, willing cooperation, and effective collaboration. Trust is the glue that holds organizations together, and the mortar with which to construct great teams. Therefore character is the single most essential trait that a person brings to any organization. It guides all other individual traits, and directly affects the relationship between the person and the team.

**"Character is the foundation of transparency and trust. Transparency fosters open communication, willing cooperation, and effective collaboration."**

— Col. Charles P. Samaris  
New England District Commander

So why is all this important? Because we serve the nation and New England, and are the world's model engineer force! We represent the Army, the Engineer Regiment, each other, and...ourselves. We achieve professional results, while being good stewards of our nation's resources. All that, my friends, is a very, very tall order. To do so well requires strong individual and organizational character.

So, as you read through this issue of The Yankee Engineer, consider each story within the context of strong character and, "doing the right thing, right!" I know I will. Serving New England Since 1775! Essays!

*"What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us."*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

## *Trendsetter Paul Marinelli retires from District with 33 years*

Paul Marinelli, Chief, Reservoir Control Center (RCC), retired from the New England District with 33 years of federal service. To celebrate his career, friends, co-workers, family members and retirees gathered in the Concord Park Cafeteria for an Italian buffet lunch and awards ceremony, Sept. 29. More than 87 people attended.

During the ceremonial portion of the event, several speakers made presentations and gave Marinelli gifts. Farrell McMillan, Chief, Engineering/Planning, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

The first speaker was Dave Schafer of Emergency Operations. He said that he began his own career with the Corps working with Marinelli in the RCC, and although he has been gone from that office for more than a decade, he said he still feels a strong connection. "Paul has always made me feel as though I am still an honorary member of the team even though we have not worked together for quite a while," he said.

Schafer said that Marinelli embodies a number of qualities that made him, "an ideal boss:"

- Devotion to his staff
- Trust in his staff to do the work
- Technical knowledge and competence

Recently the two had the opportunity to work together again during Tropical Storm Irene in September. Schafer said it was a pleasure to work with him one last time. "It was especially gratifying for me not only because it gave me a chance to get back in touch with my roots, but also because it was a vivid reminder of that sense of connection I have with Paul and the RCC team," he said.

Schafer concluded his presentation by telling Marinelli that it was a pleasure working with him and that he would be missed.



Paul Marinelli cuts the cake during his retirement luncheon.

Photos by C.J. Allen

Scott Acone, Programs/Project Management, called Marinelli a great engineer and a great leader. "When Paul became Chief of Reservoir Control, he still remained approachable," he said.

Acone said that Marinelli was ahead of his time with his great fashion sense, and that he credited Marinelli's

wife, Kathy, and daughter, Colleen, for helping him add a little style to the RCC group. "He was a trendsetter with his Italian loafers and colored shirts," he said.

Acone thanked Marinelli for his dedication to the job and presented him with a color printer cartridge in appreciation of all of the color copies

that Marinelli allowed him to make before color copiers were prevalent in the District.

Greg Hanlon praised the way Marinelli immersed himself in everything RCC. "He made our jobs easier because we could ask him anything," he said. "Paul had a handle on all the details."

Commenting on Marinelli's always calm demeanor, Hanlon said, "No matter what was going on or how stressful the situation, every day seemed just like another calm day in the office."

Hanlon also complimented Marinelli on his work ethic, saying that he would never be afraid to roll up his sleeves and help with the dirty work. "He was always considerate of others," said Hanlon.

Concluding his presentation, Hanlon presented Marinelli with a graph from the Christmas 2002 Coastal Storm and told a story about one of the hurricane barriers during that storm. With assistance from Jack Keenan and Steve Simmer, Hanlon presented Marinelli with gifts from attendees that included gift certificates to one of his favorite North-End restaurants, Patriots Place, and Dick's Sporting Goods.

In addition, he received a Minute-man statue, Corps umbrella and fleece pullover, a Bunker Hill plaque from the District, and a Superior Civilian Service Award from Brig. Gen. Peter DeLuca, North Atlantic Division Commander.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, said that although he didn't know Marinelli very well, he was impressed with "all the cool, big toys that they had at RCC."

He complimented Marinelli on how he kept feeding him information and progress reports during Tropical Storm Irene. "It was very intense," he said.



Paul Marinelli chats with Col. Samaris, friends and family during the luncheon.

The Commander recognized Mrs. Marinelli, daughter Colleen, and dog Lucy (who did not attend) for supporting Marinelli during his career. The ladies were both presented with bouquets of flowers. Col. Samaris formally retired Marinelli by presenting him with his retirement certificate and pin.

Marinelli thanked everyone for attending his lunch. "I'm very humbled

He thanked his family for their support as well as his team and the people in the field for all their hard work over the years. "I didn't do it alone," he said. "Our people in the field just blew me away with their expertise and made my life a lot easier. We all made a great team."

As to the many dollars that New England District projects saved in damages prevented over the years, he said that is more satisfying to know that they saved lives and property. "This is the most dynamic job in the Corps of Engineers," said Marinelli. "And I was honored to have it."

Marinelli concluded by saying he will miss his job and co-workers. To those he leaves behind in RCC, he said, "Be builders of the future and maintainers of the past."

Retirees who attended the lunch to welcome Marinelli into the retirement community included Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Richard Reardon, Bill and Susan Holtham and Don Wood.



Col. Samaris presents Paul Marinelli with a Superior Civilian Service Award.

by the turnout," he said. "You're either here to wish me well or are glad to see me go."



Photos by Kevin Burke

Luke Lomeland (center) with friends and coworkers posing with his awards and citations presented to him at his retirement barbecue lunch.

## *Luke Lomeland retires from Cape Cod Canal with 30 years of service*

Luke Lomeland, Marine Traffic Controller at the Cape Cod Canal, has retired from the New England District with 30 years of federal service.

An informal awards barbecue was held in Lomeland's honor on Aug. 31 at the Cape Cod Canal office. Lomeland's family held a more formal retirement dinner for him at the East Bay Grill in Plymouth, Mass., Sept. 18.

About 35 friends, co-workers and retirees attended the Canal barbecue.

John MacPherson, Assistant Canal Manager, spoke first, chronicling Lomeland's distinguished career, thanking

the new retiree for his hard work over the years and his dedication to the Cape Cod Canal, the District and the nation.

MacPherson concluded his remarks by presenting Lomeland with a custom nautical theme desk lamp made for him by his canal friends in the electrical and carpentry departments as well as presenting him with his official retirement certificate.

Roger Mathurin, Marine Operations Supervisor, also spoke warmly about Lomeland and presented him with various plaques, photos and a baseball hat.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Fran Donovan attended the barbecue.

Other retirees who went to welcome Lomeland into the retirement community were Leon Cremonini, Bob Rousseau, Al DiGregorio, Bob Orman and Fred Danhauser.

At the retirement party hosted by Lomeland's family, daughter Tyne thanked her father for everything he had done for her and for being a dedicated Canal employee.

The Marine Pilots presented Lomeland with a plaque in appreciation for

his help over the years.

Memorabilia such as plaques, pictures and certificates earned during the Canal barbecue decorated the room where the retirement party was held.

Luke Lomeland began his career at the Cape Cod Canal in 1985 as a small craft operator, patrolling the Canal, enforcing marine regulations, and assisting boaters in distress.

In 1986, Lomeland was promoted to Tug Master. In this position he assisted larger vessel operators in trouble and performed ice breaking and fire fighting duties when required.

Lomeland became a Marine Traffic Controller in 2003. In that position, the one from which he retired, Lomeland monitored the Canal using various instruments and technology, coordinated vessel transits through the Canal, planned deep draft transits, monitored vessels in trouble, dispatched patrol boats and ranger patrol boats if needed. He also monitored water levels near the New Bedford, Mass., Hurricane Barrier.

Lomeland was one of the first responders who deployed from the District immediately after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He spent three weeks in New York operating two canal tugs that were instrumental in ferrying personnel from Manhattan to Ground Zero.

Lomeland also deployed to Louisiana during the Corps' Hurricane Katrina Recovery Operations, working on the Blue Roof Program.

During his career, Lomeland won many awards to include two awards at a regional tug boat muster in Boston Harbor for the tug "MANOMET" – Best Looking Tug and first place in its class for the pushing contest.

Prior to joining the New England District, Lomeland served four years with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Lomeland plans to spend more time with his family and on his boat during his retirement.



Luke Lomeland discusses the workings of a Corps vessel during a junior ranger program.



Luke Lomeland gives the wheel to a young visitor during a boat tour of the Cape Cod Canal.



Photos by C.J. Allen

Above: David A Lawson, Assistant Director of Massachusetts Mosquito Control takes a water of the Broad Meadows project to check for larvae. (right) Wendy Gendron (left) gives a guided tour of the project.



Col. Charles Samaris (right) gets a project update.



## *Work to restore Broad Meadows into thriving ecosystem continues*

Work to transform Broad Meadows in Quincy, Mass., back to a thriving, ecologically rich salt marsh is progressing at an impressive rate.

The project, which will restore tidal flushing to the salt marsh system by lowering the surface elevation to pre-1930's levels, is ahead of schedule due in part to good weather and conditions. "The contractor has excavated 262,000 cubic yards of dredged material, which is 78-percent of the base contract volume," said Project Manager Wendy Gendron.

The project will restore 36 acres of salt marsh, 24 acres of coastal grasslands and shrubs and 6 acres of wet meadows to the area. "Back in the 1930's and 1950's the Corps placed dredged material from Town River on top of the marsh," said Gendron. "We want to return the marsh to its original elevation. To do that, we're digging out the dredged material and creating placement mounds at the north end of the site, which the contractor will then seed with a native coastal grassland mix."

Once the tidal flows are restored, it will eradicate an invasive, non-resource plant called Phragmites, so that more ecologically friendly plants will grow. Waterfowl are already using the site and soon fish will return to the area for the first time in 80 years. "Aside from the ecosystem restoration, we have an educational opportunity here with the adjacent Broad Meadows School," said Gendron. "The Broad Meadows Middle School Principal and science teacher are engaged in

the project and incorporating it in the classroom. There will also be graveled walking paths for recreational enjoyment."

The \$6 million project is being cost-shared by the federal government (75 percent) and the city of Quincy (25 percent). Thanks to the help of stakeholders, more funding was found to increase the amount of acres available for restoration over the original base contract awarded.

"The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration made us aware of possible funding from the Neponset River Watershed Association which provided \$150,000 for additional restoration," said Gendron. "That equates to \$600,000 with matching funds."

Relocating the excavated material from the former marsh to onsite placement mounds helped keep project costs down.

RC&D of Providence, R.I., is the contractor on the project. As of October, remaining work consists of installing drainage culverts, excavating 56,700 cubic yards of material from the added restoration area, and excavating the berm holding back the water. "The contractor will also seed the coastal grasslands and wet meadows next spring or fall and finish the walking paths," added Gendron.

Massachusetts Congressman William Keating and New England District Commander Col. Charles Samaris visited the Broad Meadows site on Sept. 28 to tour the restoration site and show support for the project. Restoration work at Broad Meadows is scheduled to be completed in April 2013.



## District Engineer honors New England Fallen heroes during ceremony

### **New England District Commander Col. Charles Samaris joined federal and Connecticut officials in paying homage to New England service members during the eighth annual Connecticut Fallen Heroes Tribute.**

The event was held Sept. 24 at Indian Ledge Park in Trumbull, Conn. The event was hosted by the Connecticut Fallen Heroes Foundation, Inc. According to their website, the foundation's mission is dedicated to always remembering the brave military service members from Connecticut that made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty for the nation's freedom.

This year's celebration honored seven service members. In his remarks to the hundreds who attended the event, Col. Samaris said that was an absolute privilege to be part of the tribute.

"Remember that Memorial Day can be every day – if you let it be," he said. "So carve out time, more than just once a year, to remember, appreciate and celebrate our fallen heroes."

Col. Samaris said that the best way to honor a Soldier's memory is not to mourn their loss, but to remember how they lived.

"Our nation's warriors prefer that we celebrate their accomplishments," he said. "How do you best celebrate our nation's fallen heroes? You tell their story, that's how. Today, we're privileged to tell the stories and celebrate the accomplishments of seven great Americans."

The New England District Commander concluded his remarks by presenting prominent Gold Star Wife, Barbara

Howard with a special award on behalf of the Connecticut Fallen Heroes Foundation. Mrs. Howard's husband, Ron Howard, was a Screaming Eagle of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division during the Vietnam War. The Gold Star Wives of America,

Inc., is a military survivors organization that serves war widows from all conflicts. "She has been a stalwart supporter and friend to the Connecticut Fallen Heroes Foundation," he said. "Her support comes in the form of time, energy and love for the military service members."

After Col. Samaris' presentation, the families of the honored service members were presented with a sculpture entitled "Remembrance."

Service members who were honored this year were:

Ssg Ronald Cardona, U.S. Army (Vietnam)

Cpl. Kemaphoom Chanawongse, U.S. Marines (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

Pfc. Kyle Coutu, U.S. Marines (Operations Enduring Freedom)

Spc. Andre Craig, U.S. Army (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

Pfc. Anthony D'Agostino, U.S. Army (Operation Iraqi Freedom)

Pfc. Melissa Hobart, U.S. Army (Iraqi Freedom)

Cwo Richard Lee, U.S. Army (Operation Desert Storm).



Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, told the audience that when it comes to honoring the fallen, every day should be Memorial Day.

Photo provided by Connecticut Fallen Heroes Foundation, Inc.



Volunteers break out the heavy equipment to remove debris at Buffumville Lake.

Photo by C.J. Allen

## *Volunteers improve District projects during national event*

In celebration of National Public Lands Day, more than half a dozen New England District projects held volunteer cleanups at their facilities on Sept. 17 and on Sept. 24.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's single largest volunteer event that focuses on the care and stewardship of public lands. About 559 volunteers descended on New England District recreational facilities – a handful at some areas, hundreds at others -- with the goal of maintaining and improving the areas for everyone to enjoy.

Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam in Massachusetts celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> year of holding volunteer cleanups. One hundred nine volunteers arrived on Sept. 24 to work on 15 improvement projects which included trail blazing and trash clean up, installing a sitting bench at Beaver Dam, rebuilding a small bridge and maintenance of the disc golf course. The volunteers who contributed hours of their time saved the government \$6,984.72 in labor.

The Barre Falls Dam Team in Barre, Mass., held their



Photo by Zachery Kozioł

Boy Scouts spread stone dust at picnic site at Birch Hill Dam.



Photo by Brianna Green

Volunteers plant shrubs at Barre Falls Dam.

event on Sept. 24. Six volunteers spent three hours planting fruit trees, shrub bushes, trimming existing shrubs and performing maintenance on the project's recycling bins at the picnic area. The volunteers saved the government \$348.48 in labor this year.

Girl Scout Troop 64058 rolled up their sleeves to enhance and winterize the butterfly garden and walking path leading to the garden at Black Rock Lake in Thomaston, Conn. The eight girls dug holes for 75 bulbs, dead headed plants and mulched the area. This project was no easy task for the Girl Scouts, as the garden had been recently flooded twice, making the area muddy and a challenge to clean up. Troop 64058 saved the government \$427.20 in labor.

When the June 1<sup>st</sup> tornado hit central Massachusetts, it left a lot of debris at East Brimfield and Westville Lake in its wake. About 45 volunteers arrived at the projects to perform essential cleanup at the River Trail, lake and lake shores, Sept. 24. East Brimfield Lake and its trails have been closed due to floating and submerged debris, downed trees, and concern for boating and safety. Volunteers brought boats and canoes to patrol the lake and removed debris from the water. Volunteers also cleaned up debris at the Grand Trunk Trail which sustained a great deal of tree damage during the tornado. The efforts of the 45 volunteers resulted in a \$1,922.40 savings in labor.

At Birch Hill Dam, 10 Boy Scouts installed an accessible picnic site on the project's entrance road, Sept. 24. Scouts contributed hours of their time, saving the government \$1,708.80 in labor. The Boy Scouts also donated stone dust, pressure-treated wood and rebar to achieve their goal.



Photo by Marissa Wright

Girl Scout Troop 64058 work on the butterfly garden at Black Rock Lake.

West Hill Dam held their celebration on Sept. 17. About 245 volunteers arrived, consisting mostly of Eagle Scouts, Boy and Girl Scouts who performed work such as installing solar lighting on the park rest rooms, placing directional arrows to the canoe and kayak trail, clearing the river and canoe trail entrance sign, installing a beach glider, creating two exercise stations on the Woodland Trail complete with bench, kiosks, and brochure boxes, installing a butterfly garden, and debris clean up. In total the Scouts and other volunteers put in \$18,327 worth of labor to improve the West Hill Dam.

The New England District field teams saw an increase in volunteers this year. Last year, about 400 volunteers helped clean up and maintain New England District recreational lands. Nationally, according to publiclandsday.org, more than 180,000 volunteers were expected to perform work at 2,000 sites.



Park Ranger Brad Walley (center) assists volunteers in removing debris from East Brimfield Lake.

Photo provided by East Brimfield Lake

# Dredging up the past



Photo by CJ. Allen

Park Ranger Samantha Gray, discusses artifacts displayed at the Corps of Engineers exhibit at the Big E! Exposition in Springfield, Mass., in this Sept. 12, 2003 photo.

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