

# Yankee Engineer

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*Building Strong*



*Col. Christopher Barron assumes  
command of the New England District  
Story on page 4*

# Yankee Voices

Mike Andryuk, Cesar Lopez, Col. Christopher Barron,  
Sean Dolan and Steve Umbrell



## Yankee Engineer online notification

Just a reminder that if you are retiring and would like to be notified when the latest issue of the YANKEE ENGINEER is online, you need to send a personal e-mail address to [annmarie.r.harvie@usace.army.mil](mailto:annmarie.r.harvie@usace.army.mil) to be added to the electronic mailing list. The Weekly eBulletin is not available to retirees as it is an internal publication.

## Exercise and Sleep; Anytime is Good

If you're not getting enough sleep, your work will suffer the next day. If it becomes an ongoing problem, you could find yourself out of the running for promotions and opportunities that will go instead to more energetic (and well-rested) colleagues.

One solution: Work out a little every day. The National Sleep Foundation recently reported on a study which found that people who exercise for as little as 10 minutes per day tend to sleep better and wake up feeling more rested than those who don't exercise at all.

*(First Draft Magazine)*

## Trail Progress on National Trails Day

By Tom Chamberland  
East Brimfield Lake

The New England District, in partnership with the trail committees of Holland, Brimfield and the regional Grand Trunk Trailblazers, hosted several National Trail Day activities, June 7.

The main activity was the trail work day held at East Brimfield Lake, Massachusetts. The project was coordinated by Park Ranger Tom Chamberland who also assisted by providing a fourth dump truck, a project owned vehicle.

For the 12 trail volunteers from Holland and Brimfield who participated in the National Trail Day program at East Brimfield Lake, good progress was made in completing another 1,200-foot section of the Lake Siog Pass, a "rail trail" that connects Holland to the Grand Trunk trail, and regional Titanic Rail Trail in Brimfield and another 200-foot section of the Grand trunk Trail.

Volunteers not only showed up with rakes and shovels, but also four tractors and three dump trucks to help haul and spread the donated 165 tons of half inch dense grade processed gravel, 10-foot wide along this section of trail and another 250 feet of the Grand Trunk Trail itself. Volunteers were then treated to a pizza lunch provided by the Brimfield Trail Association. This donation of materials, labor and equipment was valued at \$4,290.80.

Other work accomplished on this Trail Day was the removal of several small trees downed by winter storms from the trail and general trail cleanup of another two miles of completed Grand Trunk Trail of winter debris.

This now brings the Lake Siog Pass to 70-percent completion, and continues the great volunteer effort put forth by the Holland and Brimfield trail committees in the maintenance of the Grand Trunk trail system at East Brimfield Lake.



Photo by Tom Chamberland

Volunteers spreading and leveling a new fine gravel surface on a section of the Lake Siog Trail.





# Commander's Corner: Col. Christopher Barron addresses the New England Team at the Change of Command Ceremony

By Col. Christopher Barron  
New England District Commander



Col. Christopher Barron's remarks on his assumption of command, July 31.

"New England District team, Brigadier General Savre, Colonel Samaris, fellow commanders, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen... It is both a privilege and honor for me to be here today, and I thank you all for being part of this. First I'd like to say

thank you again to Colonel Samaris and the entire team at the New England District for the warm and open welcome – I could not have asked for a better arrival.

"To Chuck and Kathleen - best of luck as you head to Miami. Chuck - don't be surprised if we suddenly develop some urgent Corps of Engineers work in South Beach that can only be done in January and February.

"And to General Savre and my fellow commanders in the North Atlantic Division – thank you for your counsel,

patience and advice.

"I would also like to say – and I don't think I'm alone in this – is that it is very humbling to stand in such a remarkable and historic location... a meeting place over 250 years old, where the first American patriots gathered to resist oppression and begin the long, difficult struggle to create our great nation.

"This region – the Boston area and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts – is the heart of American democracy. And in many ways, it is also the heart of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Just two days after the Army was formally created, General Washington charged the first Chief of Engineers with building fortifications for the Battle of Bunker Hill. A proud tradition of support to the nation continues to this day, and is reflected in the service hundreds of dedicated Corps of Engineers personnel working across Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

"I am truly honored to now be part of that tradition. I look forward to working closely with you in the coming months and years as we engineer solutions for our nation's toughest challenges.

"Thank you for your support."



Col. Christopher Barron and Brig. Gen. Kent Savre salute as the New England District Ranger Color Guard presents the colors.



Col. Christopher Barron addresses the audience at the Change of Command ceremony.



Col. Charles Samaris delivers farewell remarks during the Change of Command ceremony.

## *Col. Barron assumes command from Col. Samaris during ceremony*

The New England District team welcomed its 36<sup>th</sup> commander when the Corps of Engineers command flag was passed from Col. Charles Samaris to Col. Christopher Barron during a Change of Command ceremony, July 31 at Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts.

Joining the New England District team in bidding farewell to Col. Samaris and welcoming Col. Barron were hundreds of family members, District Commanders and federal, state and local officials. Brig. Gen. Kent Savre, North Atlantic Division Commander, presided over the ceremony.

Lt. Col. Charles Gray, Deputy Commander for the New England District, began the event by reading the biographies of both Col. Samaris and Col. Barron. He then introduced the Samaris and Barron families to

the audience. Ted Frazetta presented Mrs. Kathleen Samaris with a bouquet of red blooming roses representing a flourishing and successful command. Megan Cullen presented Mrs. Kim Barron with a bouquet of budding white roses, representing new beginnings and symbolizing Mrs. Barron's arrival as a welcomed member of the District family. In time, Mrs. Barron's relationship with the New England team and their families will flourish.

After the floral presentations, Lt. Col. Gray announced the entrance of the official party: Brig. Gen. Savre, North Atlantic Division Commander; outgoing commander Col. Samaris, incoming Commander Col. Barron and William Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management, followed by the New England District Ranger Color Guard--Jason Robinson,

Bradley Clark, Stephen Patchkofsky and Jennifer Samela. The Color Guard posted the colors and the West Point Band Jazz Knight Brass Quartet played the National Anthem. Col. (ret.) Carl Sciple, former Commander of the Corps in New England, provided the invocation.

The official party got in position at the front of the stage. Mr. Scully passed the Corps colors to Col. Samaris, representing the District's appreciation for his leadership and guidance. Col. Samaris then passed the flag to Brig. Gen. Savre, and in turn relinquished of his command and demonstrated his gratitude for the opportunity to lead the District. Brig. Gen. Savre then passed the flag to Col. Barron, entrusting him with the responsibility and care of the District. Finally, Col. Barron passed the flag back to Mr. Scully as a sym-





Col. Samaris presents the Corps flag to Brig. Gen. Savre.

bol of his trust and confidence in the leaders of the organization. After the official Change of Command, the New England District Ranger Color Guard retired the colors.

Brig. Gen. Savre explained the significance of Change of Command ceremonies, saying they are important moments in the unit's history. "Not only because we say farewell to one commander and welcome another, but also because it is a time to reflect on the accomplishments and missions of the District and acknowledge the professionalism, commitment and accomplishments of the New England District's remarkable team."

Every great team has had a great leader and Brig. Gen. Savre recognized many of the accomplishments of the District team under Col. Samaris' command. "But he didn't do it alone," he said. "In fact it was the tremendous work and support of the District team as well as the efforts of countless partners and stakeholders, many of whom are here today, that helped the New England District accomplish so much."

Brig. Gen. Savre took a moment to thank Kathleen Samaris for her dedication and strength through all Col. Samaris' years of service. He con-



Brig. Gen. Kent Savre, North Atlantic Division Commander bids farewell to Col. Samaris and welcomes Col. Barron.

cluded by welcoming Col. Barron and his family to the New England District.

Col. Samaris followed Brig. Gen. Savre to the podium. "Today celebrates a milestone in a journey of a great organization," he said. "Today is really about the organization – a team of great folks who actually achieve those missions that Brig. Gen. Savre spoke about and guys like myself and Col. Barron get the privilege and honor to serve alongside for a relatively small snapshot in time."



Col. (ret.) Carl Sciple, former District Commander, gives the invocation during the Change of Command ceremony.

Anything past 20 years of service is considered extra innings -- icing on the cake, according to Col. Samaris. He said that he felt blessed to still be in the game and each opportunity to get at bat is an honor and a privilege. He thanked God, his wife and family, Brig. Gen. Savre, fellow District commanders, the NAD team, the HQ USACE team, Congressionals, Native American tribes, military installation commanders, federal, state and local partners and the New England District team. "You have made it exciting," he said to the District team of his three years of service. "You make it easy to wake up each morning ready to serve and I thank you," he said.

Col. Barron was last to speak at the event. The new District commander said he was very appreciative of the welcome he received not only from Col. Samaris, but from the entire New England District team. He spoke about this historic significance of the New England District and its tradition of service to New England. "I am truly honored to now be part of that tradition," he said. "I look forward to working closely with you in the coming months and years as we engineer solutions for our nation's toughest challenges."

## Col. Samaris honored for his service during award ceremony

Prior to the July 31 Change of Command ceremony, the New England District team and guests honored Col. Charles Samaris, New England's outgoing commander with awards and letters extending sincere gratitude for his years of service to the District and the nation. The ceremony was held in historic Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts.

Brig. Gen. Kent Savre, North Atlantic Division Commander, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. "I want to take some time to recognize this great American and great Army couple, Col. Chuck Samaris and his wife, Kathleen," he said. "As a family they have poured their heart and soul into our Army, into supporting our nation, into the New England District and certainly into the Greater Boston and Concord areas."

The North Atlantic Division Commander pointed out that Mrs. Samaris served her nation proudly as a Black Hawk Medivac pilot, as a U.S. Army officer and as a supportive U.S. Army spouse.

He told the story of how the two met and that Mrs. Samaris has spent the last 15 years supporting Col. Samaris through many deployments, to include his three year deployment with the New England District. "She's been a such a great part of our family," said Brig. Gen. Savre. "This business that we do in the military is not easy and you can't do it without the support of family. Kathleen's been that for all of us."

Brig. Gen. Savre presented Mrs. Samaris with a Commander's Award for Public Service for her work as a consummate Army spouse. "She was a positive presence in and around the District and regularly supported organizational events and participated in site visits throughout New England," read Lt. Col. Charles Gray, New England District Deputy Commander.

Brig. Gen. Savre introduced Col. Samaris' family who were present for the awards and Change of Command ceremonies. "I know it's been nice for



Brig. Gen. Kent Savre shakes hands with Col. Charles Samaris after awarding him with the Silver de Fleury medal as Mrs. Kathleen Samaris looks on.

them to have Chuck home," he said of Samaris, who is a Methuen native and then chuckled, "He's a New Englander who doesn't like the cold weather."

The general summarized Col. Samaris' career, ending with the impact he has had on New England District over the past three years. "He was engaged with the local community and the six states of New England with partners, stakeholders and customers," he said. "He built great relationships that we have sustained and helped us to deliver on our mission for the American people and the citizens of New England."

Brig. Gen. Savre talked about how Col. Samaris personally answered the call for help after Hurricane Sandy hit, standing up an office in New Jersey working with the state, federal government and FEMA.

The general mentioned all of the projects and successes that have occurred in New England under Col. Samaris' leadership. He said that the next station for the Samaris' will be U.S. Southern Command in Miami, Florida.

The NAD Commander presented Col. Samaris with the Legion of Merit for his superior leadership as the New England District Commander. "He helped New England District employees understand the needs of the nation and the Army, advocating and inspiring

innovation within the District to prepare for the needs of the future," read Lt. Col. Gray.

Brig. Gen. Savre then presented Col. Samaris with the Silver Order of the de Fleury Medal for his exceptionally significant impact upon the Engineer Regiment throughout 25 years of honorable service as an engineer officer. The citation also praised Col. Samaris for meritorious service while serving as Commander of the New England District.

New Hampshire Governor Margaret Wood Hassan sent a proclamation declaring July 31, 2014 as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Day. Col. Samaris received official commendations from Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee and U.S. Sen. Jack Reed. Congr. Elizabeth Esty and Sen. Kelly Ayotte sent letters of thanks to Col. Samaris for his service to New England.

Col. Samaris said that he never expected to receive the Bronze de Fleury Medal, let alone a Silver, and that the Legion of Merit was really for everyone. "This is a reflection of the service that you provide every single day," he said. "I just happened to get something pinned on me for it."

He concluded by thanking everyone for coming out early to attend the awards ceremony.



# Change of Command Ceremony

July 31, 2014



Jordan Barron applauds his mother, Mrs. Kim Barron, when she receives a bouquet of flowers during the Change of Command ceremony.



Ted Frazetta presents Mrs. Kathleen Samaris with a bouquet of red roses representing a flourished and successful command.



The West Point Band's Jazz Knight Brass Quartet play the National Anthem.



Outgoing District Commander, Col. Charles Samaris, salutes the audience during the Change of Command ceremony.



Col. Christopher Barron and daughter, Caroline, greet attendees at the end of the ceremony.



The New England District Ranger Color Guard prepare to retire the colors during the Change of Command ceremony.



The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, concludes her remarks at the Cape Cod Canal 100th Anniversary ceremony.



Participants walk past the Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge to get to the celebration. Photos by Brian Murphy

## *New England District Team, Partners join together to celebrate the Cape Cod Canal's 100th anniversary with music and special events*

One hundred years ago, the world was a different place – the Ford Motor Company sold 248,000 at \$500 a piece, a gallon of gas cost 12 cents and the Cape Cod Canal opened to water traffic.

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Brig. Gen. Kent Savre, North Atlantic Division Commander and Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, joined Rear Admiral Richard Gurnon, President of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and co-chairs of the Cape Cod Canal Centennial Committee, at a ceremony to celebrate the Canal's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The ceremony took place at Buzzards Bay Park in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts on July 29. Col. Samaris, a Massachusetts native, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. He welcomed the audience and introduced Ms. Darcy and Brig. Gen. Savre as the keynote speakers.

Col. Samaris thanked the Canal Centennial Committee, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the communities of Barnstable and Plymouth counties and the Cape Cod Canal Field Office for organizing the various activities that took place that week. "The Cape Cod Canal is just one of many

marvels the Corps of Engineers has constructed in the United States and around the world," said Col. Samaris. "For 239 years the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Army have been supporting the needs of the nation during peace and during war."

Brig. Gen. Savre thanked the audience for making it possible for the Corps of Engineers to deliver on its missions. "It is with your help...and only your help... that we are able to maintain and operate this Canal... as well as waterways throughout the nation... to support the movement of critical commodities to support economic vitality of this region and our nation, and to provide for national security," he said.

The NAD Commander discussed the long and storied history of the making of the Cape Cod Canal – from the time that Pilgrim Myles Standish conceived it, to its construction, to present day. He concluded by saying the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is, "committed to our waterways and to collaborate with you all to make smart, informed and shared decisions that support our waterways and strengthen our nation."

Ms. Darcy is a Fitchburg, Massachusetts native who "summered down" on the Cape in her youth. She

said the best part of her job is getting out and celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. She described the challenges that builders had to overcome in order to get the Canal built and then the troubles that started to surface soon after. "As time went on, traffic steadily increased and with that, serious accidents, Canal closures and navigation delays," she said.

After a German submarine fired on the American tug PERTHAMBOY in the waters three miles off Nauset Beach sinking four barges and setting the tug on fire in 1918, President Woodrow Wilson ordered the Federal Railroad Administration and then eventually the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to operate and maintain the Canal. The Corps of Engineers improved the Canal by spending \$21 million to increase the canal's width to 480 feet and its depth to 32 feet.

Ms. Darcy concluded by thanking the audience for inviting her to participate in the celebration, reciting the lyrics to the song, "Old Cape Cod," donning a Red Sox shirt and urging all of the positive energy under the tent to transfer to Boston's baseball team.

Rear Admiral Richard Gurnon read



a letter from President Barack Obama. "I wish you the very best as you mark the Cape Cod Canal's centennial celebration," he read. "May this special anniversary offer a reminder of the obstacles we have overcome as a people and challenge us to shape the currents of history in our time."

The admiral pointed out two pieces of artwork – a mural of the Cape Cod Canal and an American flag designed as a piece that had pictures of different aspects of the canal drawn in. Both pieces of work were done by local children and overseen by local artists.

Co-chair of the Canal Centennial Committee Marie Oliva talked about the local chamber of commerce and their dedication to the community. The life-long Cape Codder said that her grandfather, who was a mason, emigrated from Italy to the Cape to help construct the Cape Cod Canal.

"When people ask me what the Canal means to me, I tell them it's the history, perseverance, courage and leadership because projects don't happen by themselves -- they only happen if people are willing to take risks," she said.

As an example of leadership, Oliva talked about the challenges August Belmont had to endure to make the Cape Cod Canal a reality and never giving up on his dream. She talked about modern leadership shown by the local merchants around the Cape on Main Street and all the services they have to offer.

Rear Admiral Gurnon introduced the Cape Festival Youth Orchestra that ended the ceremony with musical selections.

In addition, the Bourne High School Alumni Chorus sang the National Anthem. Park Rangers who served as the Color Guard for the event were Jason Robinson, Steven Patchkofsky, Matt Coleman, Brad Clark, Jenn Samela and Joe Faloretti (alternate).



Photo by Bill Walker

Kristen Paul (right) works with children on the Cape Cod Canal City Urban Planning activity under the BSCES engineering tent.

## *District engineers assist during Canal 100th anniversary STEM event*

Members of the New England District Team and the Boston Society of Civil Engineers Section (BSCES) injected a little science into with the fun at the Cape Cod Canal's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, July 29 by hosting educational activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at the BSCES-sponsored engineering tent at Buzzards Bay Park.

New England District team members Kristen Paul and Bill Walker assisted the BSCES volunteers in conducting several STEM activities designed for the enjoyment of the children participating in the day's 100<sup>th</sup> celebration activities. Paul assisted children between the ages of 5-12 with the Cape Cod Canal City Urban Planning Activity. "I helped the kids lay out a city of their own on a map of the Bourne area and around the Canal," she said.

Children used materials such as paper, foam, straws, popsicle sticks, tape, coin tubes and chop sticks to do the activity. "I helped them plan where to put houses, what type of transportation to use and overcome different obstacles of planning a city," said Paul.

Walker assisted with the surveying activity. "I worked with younger kids, some senior citizens and adults interested in survey and mapping

navigation basics," he said. "I helped them learn how to use a map, translate maps to compass in plotting a course and direction and how to use a scale and pace off distances from station to station," he said.

To help out with the activity, Walker provided large scale maps of the Canal channel area, GIS aerial drawings and NOAA nautical charts of the area. "What worked well was showing them how to use a compass and provide a map with instructions on how to find an object using those materials."

Other activities that took place under the tent included, "Model Cable-Stayed Bridge Building," and "GZA Retaining Wall Building."

Over all, visitors to the BSCES engineering tent enjoyed their experience. "The kids had a blast designing and building their own city," said Paul. "It was neat to see how creative some of the designs were!"

Walker agreed with the success of the day. "It went very well and many parents thanked us for conducting the activities."

The New England District's participation in the BSCES Engineering Tent activities is in support of the Corps of Engineers Campaign goal to "Prepare for Tomorrow."



Bill Scully inducts Bobby Byrne into the Distinguished Civilian Gallery.

Photos by Dialo Ferguson



John Astley is the Federal Women's Program Supervisor of the Year.

## *Awards, recognitions kick off District's Founder's Day celebration*

New England District celebrated 239 years of service to the nation with an awards ceremony and cookout held at Concord Park Headquarters June 20. During the awards portion of the ceremony, Tim Dugan, Public Affairs, served as Master of Ceremonies.

As is tradition during the Founder's Day ceremony, Dugan recited the beginning of the Corps of Engineers, when Gen. George Washington named Massachusetts Native Col. Richard Gridley Chief of Engineers, June 16, 1775.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, thanked Engineering/Planning and the Work Environment Association for arranging for the picnic and activities to follow the awards ceremony. He wished the New England District Team a happy birthday and said that one of the highlights of being a part of the New England District is that the Corps' beginnings were here.

Col. Samaris said that 2013 was a tough year, but things looked like they are getting better. The colonel talked about all the people who have deployed, both overseas and in country and the important work they are doing. He said that in most cases the District team members do such a great job when they are deployed, those in charge do not want them to leave. Col. Samaris urged anyone who has an interest in deploying for a tour of duty overseas to contact Emergency Operations for more information.

The Commander talked about ongoing projects—Boston Harbor, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act, Muddy River and all the dredge work that is ongoing. He said that he appreciates the people who go out and volunteer to talk to people, especially students. He urged the team that if they are involved in their schools to share the message.

"Our people are the face of the organization," he said. "Everyone knows that out of all the federal agencies, the Army Corps of Engineers actually produces things – that's huge."

Col. Samaris concluded his last Founder's Day address by saying that the strength of an organization is its people. He thanked the team for their service. "It's been a real pleasure working with all of you," he said.

Bill Scully, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, announced that Bobby Byrne is this year's Distinguished Civilian Gallery Inductee.

Dave Margolis presented the District's Honorary Awards. The Lewisville Dam Data Cadre all received certificates of achievement for their work from the Fort Worth District. "Under an extremely tight schedule, they provided a quality product that is now a Corps of Engineers Model," he said.

The Cadre consisted of Team Leader Tracy Dorgan, William Gray, Kristen Paul, Dara Gay and PJ Mion. Dorgan, who was not present for the ceremony, also received a Commander's Achievement Medal for his work on the project.

Dean Brammer received a certificate of appreciation for his outstanding management of numerous Superfund and FUDS sites for the North Atlantic Division and the New England District.

Jackie DiDomenico announced that John Astley received the Federal Women's Program Supervisor of the Year Award for 2014.

Sarah Rudner presented the Length of Service pins and certificates.

Larry Oliver, the 2014 Founder's Day Chair, concluded the awards portion of the ceremony by discussing the barbecue and the activities that would happen throughout the day.





Dan Stenstream competes in the Horseshoe Tournament.



New England District team members enjoy a barbecue lunch.



Ruth Ladd paints the face of a young picnic attendee.



Paige Kimbrough-Rowan and Coral Slligato sell Corpwear during Founder's Day.



New England District team members play a game of bean bag toss.



The annual bouncy house is a favorite for young and old.

Photos by Diallo Ferguson

## Founder's Day 2014 Rouses Appetites and Spirits

By Jess Levenson  
Public Affairs

This year commemorates the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 239<sup>th</sup> birthday. The New England District team pays annual tribute to our distinguished and vital organization by honoring the people who make it that way: the District employees. We celebrate by recognizing special individual accomplishments and by providing everyone with a Founder's Day party.

The day began with a free continental breakfast featuring Danishes, donuts, bagels, and coffee, though this was just a preview of the considerable feast to come. Following breakfast, the District's annual awards ceremony set the tone for the crowd. We paid tribute to Corps history and the people who have made that history full of accomplishments and memories. But the atmosphere wasn't all business, as it's also a tradition to line speeches with an array of jokes and digs.

For approximately 200 Founder's Day guests, the flavor of the day was fun. The delectable barbecue lunch was stuffed with sunshine, shade, and food, which was catered by our very own

"Home Sweet Home" catering service (who also provide lunch at the District every day).

The main course included hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, and pulled pork sandwiches, with sides of cole slaw, potato salad, veggie skewers and mac-and-cheese. Guests washed the food down with beverages that included iced tea, fruit juices and water.

Despite having consumed a full meal, guests' second stomachs were willing and able to finish off sweet treats of cake and ice cream.

Some congregated nearer to the drink area, and they chatted and vibed to the music playing from loudspeakers. Luckily, the weather was mild enough that only the food was cooked!

Sandwiching lunch were both children and adult activities. The kids enjoyed animated movies, jumped around in the bouncy house, learned about the environment in the Green/Sustainability booth and drawing contest, let out creativity with arts and crafts, marveled at bubbles, hopped on a fire truck, and hunted the park for treasure and eggs.

Adult activities included a variety

of friendly competitions. Participants played in a horseshoe tournament, basketball, corn hole, badminton and volleyball.

The Engineering/Planning Division organized Founder's Day 2014, held in Concord Park on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The WE Committee and Engineering/Planning lowered the cost of Founder's Day lunch by raising funds in the weeks leading up to the event, primarily from serving breakfast for those at Concord Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The 2014 Founder's Day Committee were: Larry Oliver (Chair); Greg Penta; Judy Antonellis; Stefan Carpenter; Andrea Clotz-Pittman; Sheila Harvey; William Hubbard; Michelle Jackson; Daniel Jalbert; Gladys Leone; Jess Levenson; Jay Mackay; Helen Madhi; Sarita Martinez; Kim Pumyea; Will Pumyea; and Bill Walker.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Charlie Coe attended the festivities. Other retirees who participated included Greg Buteau, Susan Mehigan, Bill Mullen and Dave Lubianez.

All in all, I'd say it was a job well-done!

## Deputy Chief of Operations retires with 36 years of service

Only Joan Gardner would feel lucky enough to hold a retirement luncheon on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. But the woman who broke through many barriers in her career did just that, making one last memorable moment in her 36-year career.

One hundred and ten people attended Gardner's celebration at the Montvale Plaza in Woburn, Massachusetts on June 13. Frank Fedele, Chief of Operations, served as MC, welcoming the audience and summarizing her career. He named the many barriers that Gardner smashed through to make way for other female engineers in the District to include being one of the first New England Division Interns and the first female engineering supervisor for the Corps in New England.

Father Will Schmidt, Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Wrentham, and St. Martha's Parish Plainville, Massachusetts said the blessings before the official ceremony began.

The long list of presenters included Viola Bramel, Brian Murphy, retiree Peter Huie, Distinguished Civilian Gallery member Dick Carlson, retiree Joe Bocchino, retiree Raimo Liias, Gardner's son Christopher, her husband David and her brother Paul DiPietro. Many of the speakers presented Gardner with personal gifts during their talks.

Kim Russell presented Gardner with a gift certificate, a minuteman statue, flowers, cards and other joke gifts. Russell presented David Gardner with a small token of appreciation from the District for supporting his wife throughout her distinguished career.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, presented Gardner with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service for 36 years of successful performance in accomplishment of duties at the Corps in New England. "Ms. Gardner was one of the first female civil engineers at New England Division and progressed to management as the first female engineer supervisor when selected as Chief, EPA support



Col. Charles Samaris presents the Commander's Award for Civilian Service to Joan Gardner during her retirement lunch.

Branch and subsequently as Chief, Technical Services Branch for Construction/Operations Division," read Fedele. "She was instrumental in getting the Contractor Quality Control Program up and running to support the Construction Division mission and in 2009 was selected to be Deputy Chief Operations Division."

The District Commander concluded the official portion of the lunch when he presented Gardner with her retirement pin, certificate and a commander's coin.

Gardner thanked many people for organizing her luncheon and to Father Schmidt for the blessing. She thanked all of her past supervisors, saying they were like family to her. She talked about her college days and her early career with the Corps of Engineers. She spoke about mentoring DA Interns when they rotated through her Division and her deepest appreciation to all of the New England District Park Rangers who take so much pride in their jobs. She said that she enjoyed her time with the Corps of Engineers and confessed that many of the stories told during her luncheon were true.

Gardner concluded by saying that the New England District is truly a family and hoped that everyone enjoyed themselves at the lunch and that they have a safe trip home.

Family members who attended the lunch were Gardner's husband Dave, son Chris and brother Paul.

Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Dick Reardon, Dick Carlson and wife, Judy, Fran Donovan, Joe Finegan and Nick Avtges came to the lunch to wish Gardner well. Other retirees who participated included Brenda Faragi, Perk Gould, Farrell McMillan, Bob Batt, Col. (ret.) Carl Sciple, Bob Meader, Chiway Hsiung, Tony Mackos, Bob Hanacek, Joe Bocchino, Mike Curran and wife, Barbara, Marty Curran and wife, Ruth, Peter Huie, Bobby Byrne, Mary Dunn, Donna Russell, Annie Chin and Lynne Bleakney.



Joan Gardner (center) with her family at her retirement lunch.

Photos by Brian Murphy



## Wayne Johnson retires with 35 years of federal service

After 35 years of federal service, Wayne Johnson, Force Protection Specialist, decided it was time to slow things down and settle into retirement.

A pizza party was held in his honor at the Concord Park cafeteria, June 26. About 70 friends and retirees attended.

Steve Andon served as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Other speakers who paid tribute to Johnson's career were Bill Herland, Paige Kimbrough-Rowan, Frank Fedele, Chris Turek, retiree Greg Buteau, retiree Joe Colucci, Col. (ret.) Carl Sciple and Mike Hicks.

The gifts Johnson received from the presenters included coffee mugs, a Celtics shirt and shorts and framed pictures.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Wayne Johnson cuts his retirement cake during a pizza party held in his honor.

From the attendees Johnson received a Concord Minuteman statue and a gift certificate. Lt. Col. Charles Gray, New England District Deputy Commander, presented Johnson with a

certificate of appreciation in honor of his dedicated service over the years, a commander's coin and his retirement certificate and pin.

In addition to his service to the Corps, Johnson also served his country faithfully in the U.S. Army and later in the Reserves.

During his retirement, he plans to snowbird to Georgia during the winter months, with the possibility of a permanent move there. Besides Buteau, Colucci and Sciple, other

retirees who attended the pizza lunch were Joe Bocchino, Chiway Hsuing, Don Wood, Bob Meader, Annie Chin, Bill Holtham, Terry Wong and Rick Casano.

## District's Value Engineer retires with more than 34 years of service

After 34 years of faithful service to the nation, Bill Herland, New England District's Value Engineering Officer and AE Coordinator made the decision to join the New England District's retirement community.

Family, friends, retirees and co-workers joined Herland at the Chateau Restaurant July 10 for a lunch to celebrate his 34 year federal career and to wish him well on his retirement.

Dave Margolis served as Master of Ceremonies. He presented Herland's wife, Cheryl, with a bouquet of flowers in honor of the support to her husband during his career. Herland received a gift certificate from Golfsmith from attendees.

The newly retired Wayne Johnson presented Herland with a framed article from back in the day when they were golf partners in the NED Golf League and won the Championship.

Col. Charles Samaris, New England

District Commander, presented Herland with the Bronze de Fleury Medal for his years of exceptionally meritorious service to the Engineer Regiment. "Mr.



Col. Charles Samaris presents Bill Herland with the Bronze de Fleury Medal as Cheryl Herland looks on.

Herland's passionate enthusiasm and technical expertise significantly contributed to the full spectrum of projects, programs and offices culminating as the District's Value Engineering Officer and AE Coordinator," read Margolis.

Col. Samaris also presented Herland with his retirement certificate and pin. Herland plans to enjoy time between his homes in Maine and North Carolina golfing, playing tennis, running skiing and spending time with his family.

Herland's wife Cheryl, daughter Tessa Bower, her husband Nick and daughter Lilly, and Herland's other daughter Allie accompanied him to the lunch. Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Bobby Byrne, Dick Reardon and Andy Lamborghini attended. Other retirees who welcomed Herland into their ranks were Lynne Bleakney, Joe Bocchino, Greg Buteau, Annie Chin, Nick Forbes, Joan Gardner, Mark Geib, Bill Haynes, Richard Heidebrecht, Bill and Sue Holtham, Chiway Hsiung, William Kavanaugh, Sr., Raimo Liias, Joe Colucci, Tony Mackos, Farrell McMillan, Bob Meader, Mark Otis, Terry Wong and Don Wood.



Col. Charles Samaris cuts into dessert during his goodbye reception.

Photos by Brian Murphy

## District team bids farewell to Col. Charles Samaris

New England District teammates spent a Friday afternoon wishing Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, and his wife, Kathleen, the very best at their new assignment at U.S. Southern Command, headquartered in Miami, Florida. Dozens of people hung out with the Samaris' in the Concord Park Courtyard area on July 25.

Steve Andon served as the Master of Ceremonies during the presentation portion of the mostly casual event. Steve Dunbar presented Col. Samaris with a leadership book, a picture of the current Leadership Development Program participants and a travel mug with Dunbar's picture on it so he would remember Dunbar and the days they spent commuting together in New Jersey during the Hurricane Sandy Recovery efforts.

Gary Lacroix went to the same high school as Col. Samaris, although he was a year behind. Lacroix shared Col. Samaris' high school yearbook photo, pictures of Col. Samaris on the football team and pictures of him in two high

school musical productions. Lacroix presented Col. Samaris with the photos and original copies of the advertising posters for the musicals. In addition to being in the productions, Col. Samaris also drew the posters promoting the events.

Brian Murphy talked about how Col. Samaris pushed his artistic abilities to excellence. He presented Col. Samaris with a picture of the Concord Minuteman in Miami Vice-style garb to commemorate his leaving for Florida as well as a commander's coin with botched coloring that also had a pastel, Florida feel. Murphy presented Col. Samaris a finished product that the two worked on together – a poster of the various Commanders from New England and the projects they were responsible for.

Larry Rosenberg presented Col. Samaris with the Ragan Employee Communications Award for Excellence for the Best Executive Letter. The District Commander received the honor for his tireless and expert communications during the Sequestration and Furlough in 2013.

Bill Scully presented Mrs. Samaris with an Alex and Ani bracelet and a Willow Tree Statue entitled "Forget Me Not" from the New England District team. Col. Samaris received a Concord Minuteman Statue as a remembrance from the team of his time at the District. Andon thanked the Colonel for all his support over the past three years and praised him for being a very dynamic and inspiring leader.

Col. Samaris thanked everyone for attending his goodbye reception and said that he enjoyed every minute of his command. He said that his experiences at the District have prepared him for his next assignment. In addition to current New England District team members, recent retirees Donna Russell and Joan Gardner and her husband Dave, came to wish the Samaris' good luck.



Col. Charles Samaris thanks the New England District team for their support during his tour.



# In Memorial:

## District loses valued Marine Biologist, friend, Cathy Rogers

In science the terms for change over time and place is, “temporal and spatial variability.” What that actually means is that we can only describe change, and really cannot understand it or time itself. Cathy Rogers, who passed away suddenly July 14, changed the environment of New England over her 28 years of hard work. The Corps of Engineers flag flew at half mast in her honor when news of her passing hit her New England District teammates.

Cathy joined USACE as a marine ecologist after getting her BS and MS in Marine Sciences. She began her career with us on May 7, 1986. She married Will Rogers, formerly of the Operations Division, then North Atlantic Division. She was instrumental in coastal storm damage reduction projects, small and large navigation projects, ecosystem restoration projects and national reviews as a Regional Technical Specialist. Cathy was lead author for several Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for dredged material disposal sites in Long Island Sound, Rhode Island Sound and all of the EIS and SEIS work for major Boston Harbor improvement projects. She completed more EISs than anyone in the history of New England District. When Super Storm Sandy impacted the northeast, Cathy was called to be the New England lead for all environmental issues. She had decades of activities in coastal storm damage reduction projects and her environmental expertise quickly guided the Sandy Comprehensive Study. She was proud of her restoration projects along the New England coast, mentioning just a few: Broad Meadows Marsh in Quincy, Massachusetts; eelgrass in New Hampshire, as well as Pleasant River in Addison, Maine. She represented the Corps at numerous forums including the Right Whale Recovery Team, Long Island Sound National Estuary Program Management Committee, the Gulf of Maine Council, Southern New England Ecosystem Restoration Program, and the Northeast Regional Dredging Team, and frequently presented at International Coastal Zone and other conferences.

In 2004, Cathy was promoted to Regional Technical Specialist for Ecosystem Restoration and Environmental Compliance. She also provided comments on nationally proposed CEQ draft guidance concerning monitoring and mitigation, greenhouse gases, and the proposed Atlantic sturgeon endangered species listing. Her reviews of nationally important projects for environmental compliance and ecosystem restoration such as the Hurricane Sandy North Atlantic Coastal Comprehensive Study, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Project, the Mississippi Coastal Improvements Program and the New York/New Jersey Harbor Deepening Project greatly improved the USACE delivery of its mission. She also provided technical and planning guidance to district counterparts in support of improving the quality of environmental products as well as provided lead policy



Cathy Rogers speaking on the Quincy Marsh project.

review of Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) projects.

Cathy's career spanned the offices of the USACE and all the environmental agencies. News of losing Cathy impacted colleagues in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and all of the New England states. State Coastal Zone Management Offices and Departments of Environmental Protection have all contacted us with words of praise and sorrow. Contracting firms such as Battelle and local partners such as the Massachusetts Port Authority have felt the loss.

The volume of Cathy's awards is both enormous and impressive; they blend together as words of Commendation, Special Acts and Superior Performance. She received a Vice-President Gore Hammer Award for her work on Boston Harbor. That award was presented by Senator Ted Kennedy, Congressman Joe Moakley and Secretary of the Army Dr. Joseph Westphal. Her favorite award was a Peer Award from Pete Jackson – the Boston Harbor Project Manager from the 1990's EIS. If you visited Cathy's office her walls had pictures of family and friends, these awards were neatly filed away.

So what are we saying here? Because of Cathy, there are more Right Whales in the ocean – more marine mammals in the sea. There are more clams, eelgrass beds filled with juvenile fish and many more beach dunes. Wetlands are greener, salt marshes wetter and saltier. There are simply more fish in the sea. When your legacy is as vast as the ocean itself, you do not need to display paper certificates of awards. You do not need any more accolades than the permanent improvement of ocean health in New England and the nation. The impacts and benefits of her work will forever continue in time. Cathy knew that – we thought you should too. *(From the Engineering/Planning team)*

# Dredging up the past



Members of the New England District team's Operations Division pose in front of a tall ship passing through the Cape Cod Canal in this circa 2002 photo.

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