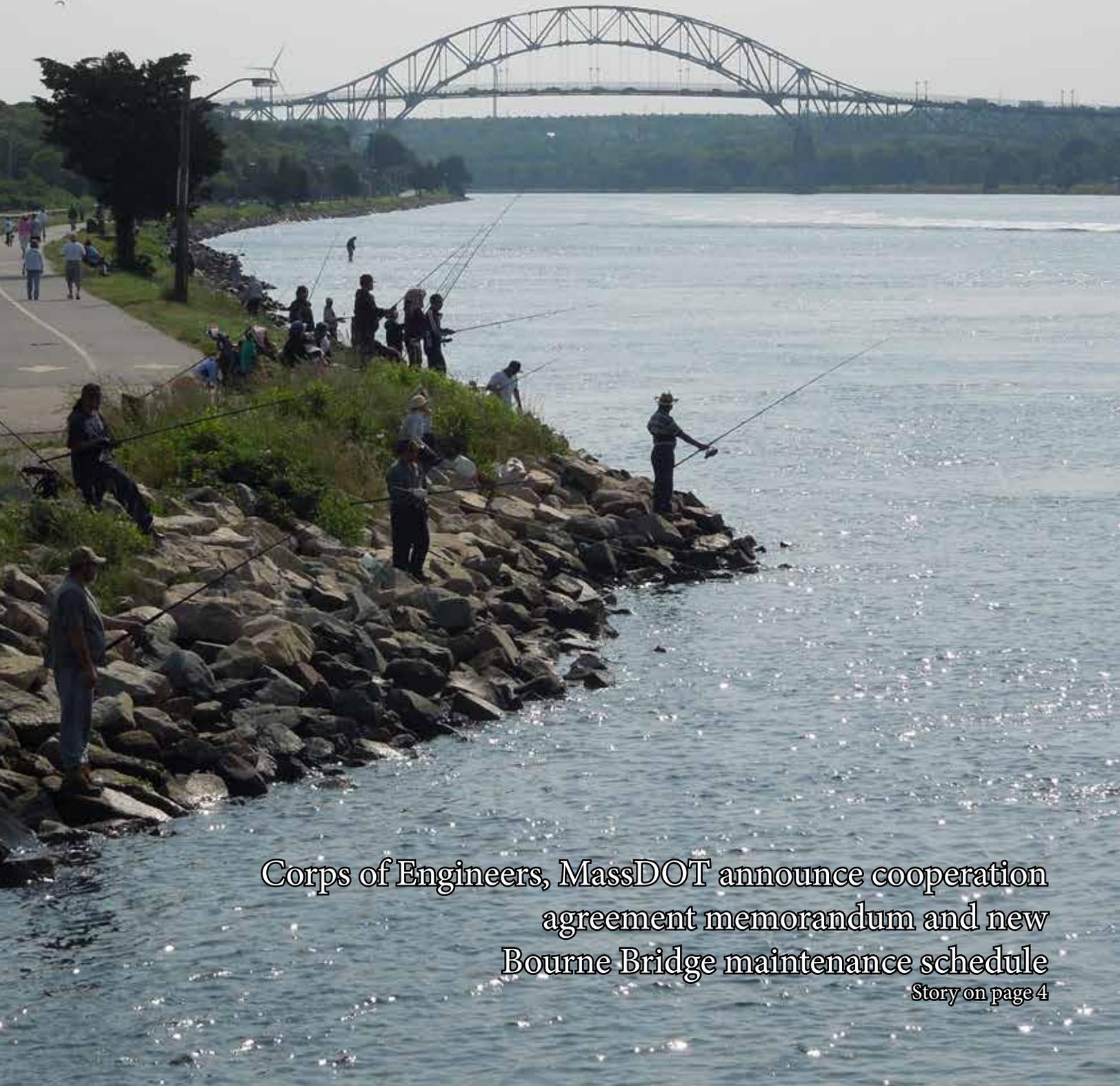


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Building Strong

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Corps of Engineers, MassDOT announce cooperation
agreement memorandum and new
Bourne Bridge maintenance schedule

Story on page 4

Yankee Voices

Capt. Erik Patton and Brian Balukonis



Staying up late may damage your health

Benjamin Franklin's advice, "Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise," turns out to be true—at least the "healthy" part. A British study of genes and health that analyzed surveys of more than 400,000 people found that night owls have a 10 percent higher risk of death over a 6½-year period than early risers, according to an article on the NBC News website.

The negative impact of burning the midnight oil doesn't depend on how much sleep you actually get—both night owls and early risers reported getting the same amount—but on the fact that it throws the body's natural rhythms off track. Also, the study found that people who stay up late tend to eat fattier foods, drink more alcohol, and use recreational drugs. In addition, staying up late at night has been shown to increase depression and mood disorders, especially among people 50 and older.



Some of the graduates of the 2018 Junior Ranger Program pose for a picture during the ceremony.

West Hill Dam holds graduation ceremony for 2018 Junior Ranger Program

Team members at West Hill Dam held a graduation ceremony for 29 Junior Rangers and six Junior Rangers Level 2, July 27 at the Dam. During the ceremony, graduates made presentations and then took questions at the end of their presentations.

The West Hill Dam Junior Ranger Program, headed by Park Ranger Viola Bramel, is an annual event at the dam.

Bramel often enlists other Park Rangers as well as Junior Ranger Program graduates to assist her. This year she had a Gold Eagle Award Advanced Junior Ranger and two high school volunteers help her. According to Bramel, the youngsters made an exceptional team and were instrumental in making this year's program a huge success.

The West Hill Dam Junior Ranger Program is only one of many activities held during the summer months. Other activities for young and old included Lewis and Clark Campfires, a Fishing Day and trail walks.





View of tailings pile from top of the waste rock pile.

Photo provided by Stephen Dunbar

Corps of Engineers awards ID/IQ contract for former Callahan Mine site remediation services in Brooksville

**By Jacquelyn Goddard, Maine DOT and
Timothy J. Dugan, New England District**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District recently issued an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (ID/IQ) remediation services task order contract with a contract capacity not to exceed \$45 million with a five-year ordering period for the Callahan Mine Superfund Site in Brooksville, Maine.

The contract, awarded on May 18, to Environmental Quality Management, Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio, is a cost reimbursable type contract with some firm fixed price contract line items. This is a performance-based procurement with specific outcomes defined in each negotiated task order. There is no limit on the number of Task Orders that may be executed, but the cumulative amount of all Task Orders executed is limited to \$45 million.

The former Callahan Mine site was an open-pit mine developed in Goose Pond, a shallow tidal estuary of approximately 75 acres in the town of Brooksville. From 1968 through 1972, approximately five million tons of waste rock and 800,000 tons of ore-bearing rock were mined from the open pit. The waste rock was disposed on-site in three large piles. The outside footprint of the tailings impoundment

encompasses approximately 17 acres and contains 725,000 cubic yards of mining related waste (tailings).

Erosion of mine waste (tailings and waste rock) and precipitation of metals in the leachate discharge from the tailings impoundment and waste rock piles has contaminated the soil in the salt marsh and sediment in Goose Pond with concentrations of copper, lead, and zinc that may represent a threat to insectivorous and piscivorous birds, fish, and other aquatic organisms.

The ongoing acid rock drainage from the waste rock piles and tailings act as a continuing source of copper, lead, and zinc to groundwater, surface water, and sediment. The tailings impoundment dam must be stabilized to prevent a failure of the dam and the subsequent release of tailings into the estuary and Penobscot Bay.

The major work elements are remediation of the tailings impoundment, remediation of waste rock pile #3, slope stabilization of the tailings impoundment, consolidation and capping of the tailings impoundment, sediment excavation and disposal in a confined aquatic disposal cell, remediation of residual contamination at waste rock pile #2 and the ore processing area, site restoration and mitigation, and monitoring.



The Bourne Bridge at sunset.

Corps of Engineers, MassDOT announce cooperation agreement memorandum and new Bourne Bridge maintenance schedule

By Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The New England District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) are announcing that scheduled maintenance on the Bourne Bridge over the Cape Cod Canal is being shifted to the spring season next year. In addition, the USACE and MassDOT are announcing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to continue to facilitate ongoing conversations, a sharing of information and collaborative decision-making regarding the inspection of the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges, scheduled maintenance and future project development.

"We're pleased to have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers so we can continue to have regular conversations to support the Army Corps' plans for the Sagamore and Bourne Bridges," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack.

"An example of the MOU is the announcement that the Corps will be shifting intensive maintenance work on the Bourne from the fall to the spring which will keep the Bourne fully open during the tourist season which continues into November. This decision benefits visitors, residents and members of the business community who need the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges both open when so many people need to use them."

"The New England District is continuing our close collaboration with Mass DOT as we work together on the long term plan for the Cape Cod Canal bridges," said Col. William Conde, commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

"MassDOT has been pleased to support efforts by the USACE during necessary maintenance work on the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges," said Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "These bridges are essential to the economic livelihood and quality of life for the Commonwealth's residents, business leaders and visitors and

MassDOT is grateful for the opportunity to formalize an agreement in which we will have regular, ongoing conversations and information-sharing about maintenance, nearby transportation infrastructure needs and how best to plan for future Cape Cod Canal crossings."

The MOU, signed on June 27, acknowledges that under the Cape Cod Canal Federal Navigation Project, the Bourne and Sagamore Bridges are owned by the USACE which has the responsibility to operate and maintain them. And as it is MassDOT's responsibility to operate and maintain the state highway system, including the highways and infrastructure approaching these bridges, the USACE and MassDOT agree to engage in a collaborative approach to discuss and exchange information concerning a coordinated public process for future projects, including public outreach, environmental permitting, identification of financing and funding sources, evaluation of project delivery methods, and ongoing repair and maintenance.

The first example of collaboration

under the MOU is the announcement of when scheduled comprehensive maintenance will be done on the Bourne Bridge. Instead of proceeding as previously announced with repair activities starting in September 2018, the USACE has worked with MassDOT to refine the timeline to lessen the impact on travel during the fall tourist season. If any Bourne maintenance activities need to be done in 2018, those activities will only be done in off-peak hours. Extensive several-week long maintenance is now scheduled to occur in the spring 2019.

The new timeline for maintenance is in keeping with the MOU which states, in part, that the USACE and MassDOT will “coordinate their respective designs, project schedules,

maintenance/construction activities, and traffic management to enhance efficiency and minimize impacts to the traveling public to the maximum extent possible.” In addition, the USACE and MassDOT agree to share information and work cooperatively during construction projects, particularly when activities are scheduled to be performed concurrently, and agree to make the best effort possible to coordinate and minimize impacts to the traveling public, including but not limited to, identifying efficiencies and cost savings related to traffic setups, lane closures, access restraints, police details, labor, equipment and materials.

Earlier this year, starting the week of April 2, and ending weeks ahead of schedule, (on May 2), prior to Memorial

Day weekend, the USACE conducted a large-scale maintenance project seven days a week on the Sagamore Bridge. During the maintenance, travel was limited to one lane in each direction.

In addition to closely coordinating public communication concerning the upcoming maintenance work on the Bourne Bridge, the USACE and MassDOT will continue to have conversations concerning the finalization of two important reports: USACE’s Major Rehabilitation multi-year study on the bridges and MassDOT’s Cape Cod Canal Area Transportation Study. Members of the public who wish to learn more about the status of MassDOT’s study may visit the following website: <https://www.mass.gov/cape-cod-canal-transportation-study>

Annual report for 2017 published on Massachusetts In-Lieu Fee program for impacts to aquatic resources

**By Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Office**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District recently made available for review the “Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Fish and Game, In-Lieu Fee Program, 2017 Annual Report.” The program serves as an alternative form of compensation for impacts to aquatic resources in Massachusetts that are authorized by the Corps’ New England District.

Compensatory mitigation occurs in circumstances where a permittee is required to compensate for the functions and values of aquatic resources lost as a result of the authorization after all efforts are made to avoid and minimize impacts.

In-Lieu Fee is an option available to the permit applicant instead of completing permittee-responsible mitigation. Use of the In-Lieu Fee program (ILFP) is contingent upon Corps of Engineers approval. All In-

Lieu Fee agreements in New England are available for review on the Corps’ website at www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Mitigation.aspx.

In 2014, the Corps of Engineers approved the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to be the sponsor of the state-wide program that would provide in-lieu fee compensatory mitigation associated with Corps permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and related federal rule at 33 CFR Part 332 (the federal mitigation rule).

The availability of DFG’s In-Lieu Fee program allows permittees, with the Corps’ approval, to make a monetary payment in compensation for project impacts to aquatic resources of the U.S. in Massachusetts, in-lieu of on-site mitigation. When these in-lieu fee payments are made to the ILFP, DFG assumes legal responsibility for implementing the

required mitigation, which it does by aggregating and expending the in-lieu payments on mitigation projects.

DFG’s In-Lieu Fee program is being administered by its three divisions – the Division of Marine Fisheries, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Division of Ecological Restoration – and will implement mitigation projects that permanently protect aquatic resources and upland buffers and/or restore impacted aquatic resources within four service areas.

The public notice with the 2017 annual report can be viewed on the Corps website at www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/PublicNotices.aspx. Questions on this program (File # NAE-2007-02926) can be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Regulatory Division (ATTN: Joshua Helms), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751 or by email to: joshua.m.helms@usace.army.mil or by phone to 978-318-8211.

Executive Secretary Angie Vanaria retires with 38 years of service

The woman who aided a dozen Commanders of the New England District has decided to retire and spend more time enjoying her family.

A retirement pizza party to celebrate the 38-year career of Angie Vanaria, Executive Secretary, was held in the Concord Park Cafeteria, July 26. Eighty-five family, friends, co-workers and retirees to include three former District Commanders traveled from all over the country to wish Vanaria the best.

William Burgess, Knowledge Management Officer, hosted the ceremony portion of the Vanaria's lunch. "We're here to celebrate with Angie, but more importantly we're here to show our gratitude for the many years of service and the countless contributions that she's made to this District," he said.

Burgess summarized Vanaria's career for the audience. Her federal service spans 40 years, 33 of which were with New England District. She started back in 1978 when she went to work for the National Archives and Records Administration and Federal Records Center in Waltham. It wasn't until 1985 when Vanaria arrived at the Corps in New England, first serving as a voucher examiner and accounting technician. She was selected to become the Executive Secretary in 1991 under Col. Philip Harris.

"It was in this role where Angie truly shined," said Burgess. "For nearly three decades now, Angie has kept our senior leaders in line, kept them out of trouble and she really has coauthored the story of NAE for the past 30 years or so."

Burgess said that the daily grind in the Executive Office can feel overwhelming, but Vanaria was able to handle the pressure.

"She's maintained the course and speed and she has always ensured that our senior leaders were equipped to deliver the program," he said. "And



Col. (ret.) Earle Richardson attended Angie Vanaria's lunch to wish her the best in retirement.

Photos by Brian Murphy

what's most impressive about Angie is that she does all this and she makes it look easy which is not an easy thing to do. So Angie you can finally take off that pack, you can take your rest, we wish you the best as you sail off to retirement. Thank you and congratulations."

Scott Acone expressed his gratitude to Vanaria for her support. "When you are in the front office as the senior civilian, part of your job is to advise the commanders," he said. "And a lot of the time the person who advised me was Angie. I'm going to miss her greatly."

Acone said that it was a relief to know that when he had to travel Vanaria was there to take care of all the details. "You did it with the utmost professionalism and timeliness," he said. "I couldn't ask for a better helper during my transition so I thank you."

Acone presented Vanaria with a picture of NAE headquarters of the Waltham and Concord Offices, and with a certificate of appreciation signed by Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, for the many years of service which she has given to the country. Burgess read the citation. "I share your pride in the contributions

you have made to the Army and I trust that you will maintain an active interest in the Army and its objectives during your retirement," he read. "You take with you my best wishes and those of our fellow employees for happiness and success in the years that lie ahead."

Vanaria also received a Commander's Award for Civilian Service, signed Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Milhorn, Commander, North Atlantic Division, for 33 years of meritorious service as a civilian employee for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District from September 1985 to July 2018.

"Ms. Vanaria exhibited the highest levels of professional expertise while serving as a voucher examiner, accounting technician and secretary to the District Commander and Deputy Commander for Project Management. Her knowledge of District procedures and devotion to duty ensure the seamless continuity of operations during 12 consecutive Command changes," read Burgess. Signing the award was one of Maj. Gen. Milhorn's first acts as Division Commander.

Jon Belmont, Chief of Staff, said Vanaria made him feel at

home right away when he arrived.

“Ever since before day one before I got here in February it’s really not that hard for me to discern just what an invaluable member of the District team Angie’s been just a linchpin of the organization,” he said. “So many critical and strategic impacts from the Executive Office functions that rely on you and your vast institutional knowledge.”

Belmont presented Vanaria with a charm bracelet on behalf of attendees. “Jewelry is fitting because like you it is beautiful, it is valuable and it is timeless.”

The guest of honor got up and said a few words. “I’ve enjoyed working with the Corps,” she said. “It’s been like a second home to me over the years. I will miss seeing all of you but I will not miss getting up early in the morning and rushing to get here. I want to thank my family for coming today and joining in on the celebration and I look forward to spending more time with you.”

After her remarks, event attendees were invited to get up and speak. Bill Scully, who worked with Vanaria for 25 years, called her a true professional.

“There is so much that she does and did unknown to most folks, even to those of us that were close to her in the front office. I’ve never seen someone as proactive as her. She’s just a consummate Executive Secretary. I just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the assistance and help you gave me over our 25 years together. Retirement’s great and I wish you nothing but the best in retirement and I’m sure the family is going to enjoy it, too.”

Long-time friend Sally Rigione wished Vanaria the best. “I’m very fortunate to have known her family for a long time,” she said. “I am going to miss my friend but I’m so happy for her. Dolly brings out the best in me and I am so happy she took the time to be my friend.”

Other speakers included Bob Henderson, Bob Desista, Donna Terrio and Col. (Ret.) Earle Richardson. Col. Richardson urged her to savor the moment of being appreciated.

“Take a look at the appreciation that they have for you and don’t let the moment slip by without understanding that,” he said. “I felt I had to say

something, not only on my behalf but on behalf of all of those that preceded me and all of those that followed me in the position I had when I was with you. It is a time that I enjoyed, it was a time when I thought of all of you professional folks got great things accomplished. But as I look back there were some moments where I have to say that I appreciated this person as much as anyone.”

Daughter-in-law Bernadette Vanaria thanked the New England District team for honoring Vanaria and taking care of her over the years.

“She told us she didn’t want anything -- she usually doesn’t want anything -- but we were happy to hear that something was going to be put together for her,” she said. “She does think of you as her second family.”

Retirees who attended the lunch were Col. (Ret.) Carl Sciple, Col. (Ret.) Tom Feir, Col (Ret.) Earl Richardson, Gallery Members Charlie Coe and Ken Paton, Gladys Leone, Greg Buteau, Ella Minincleri, Joan Gardner, Laura Lally, Barbara Duffin, Bob Meader, Jerry Nunziato, Bill Scully and Jane Kotelly.



Sally Rigione presents her friend with a gift.



Many retirees attended Angie Vanaria's retirement.



Scott Acone presents a Commander's Award for Civilian Service to Angie Vanaria at her retirement.

A-E Coordinator, Army Technical Lead Beverly Lawrence retires with 33 years of service

The New England District has amazing team members who do equally amazing work. Some are thrust into the spotlight when working on high profile projects, while others manage to avoid a fuss and go on quietly to get the job done.

One such teammate is Beverly Lawrence, Architect-Engineer Coordinator and Technical Lead for the National Museum of the U.S. Army, who for 29 of her 33-year career quietly served her country faithfully, working on projects that make a difference to the people of New England and the nation.

A retirement luncheon to honor Lawrence's career took place, July 31, in the Concord Park cafeteria. Eighty-five co-workers, retirees and family members attended. Lawrence retired the same day as her lunch.

Dave Margolis, Lawrence's supervisor, hosted the official part of the lunch. He introduced her family and acknowledged the retirees and special guests in the audience. Margolis said he spent a lot of time with Lawrence over the years and saw her dedication to her work first-hand, sometimes taking away from family time.

Margolis presented gifts to her family on behalf of the District in appreciation for their support of her career. "Please know with all the long hours Bev has put in through the years, she was always thinking of you," he told them. "It seems that she always did an amazing job balancing home/work life and that both were very important to her. I am sure it wasn't always as easy as she made it appear."

Moving on to her career, Margolis talked about her graduation with honors from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and interning at Fort Devens in her senior year. She moved on to work for Bechtel Power Corp., in Maryland as a structural engineer where she made



Beverly Lawrence receives a special plaque for her work on the National Museum of the U.S. Army from contractor EAL.

significant contributions to the cleanup of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 Facility.

Lawrence began her federal career in 1985 at Fort Devens and worked there for about four years before joining the Corps in New England in February 1989, according to Margolis.

Lawrence has served in various capacities during her career at the District to include working on Dam Safety and Civil Works Projects and working on military projects in support of Fort Devens and Natick Laboratories. She served as Engineering Manager for the \$65 million BRAC/HTRW project in Watertown. She also managed many environmental projects such as the Centerdale Superfund site and formerly used defense sites to include Combustion Engineering, Sylvania Hicksville and Shpack.

One of her most high profile projects did not have anything to do with environmental cleanup, but remembering those who served in the U.S. Army. Lawrence was the technical lead for the design and fabrication of all exhibits in the

National Museum for the U.S. Army located in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

"This project will be part of Bev's lasting impact on the Corps and the Army as generations of people will visit the museum in Virginia to take in these incredible exhibits," said Margolis.

Lawrence's final career move came in 2014 when she was promoted to the Architect-Engineer Coordinator position for the District. According to Margolis, she was the key player in the District's substantial efforts to solicit new contracts. She did all that, and worked on the museum exhibits.

Margolis said that during her workload, she also earned her Master's Degree in Civil Engineering from WPI. "We are going to miss her helpful, friendly demeanor around the office, and I am most certainly going to miss the comfort I had in knowing that if something was Bev's responsibility, we were all in good hands and on solid ground," he said.

Gifts that Lawrence received included a gift card, stein and Corps Fleece Jacket. Sheila Bergeron

presented Lawrence with a memory brick with her name and position on it. The brick will be placed in the "Walk to Remembrance" at the National Museum of the U.S. Army. Other tributes included a PowerPoint presentation created by Peter Hugh highlighting Lawrence's career, Rose Schmidt presented Lawrence with a pineapple, former Corps employee Tony Riccio made a presentation as well as videos by Gary Lacroix, who could not attend, and her daughters and husband who were in the audience.

Scott Acone made a special presentation on behalf of EAI, contractor of the Army Museum. The company gave Lawrence a plaque with her picture etched on it and a citation. They also sent a letter of appreciation. "We'd like to thank you for everything you have done to ensure that the National Museum of the United States Army becomes not only a reality, but one that will honor the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country since the Army's creation," read Acone from the letter. "I don't believe there are any words that can truly express our gratitude or illustrate how much you will be missed."

The note was signed Jerry Eisterhold and Sue Malik and her friends on the Army Project Team.

The presentations moved to the official honors, with Lawrence receiving a Superior Civilian Service Award for Exceptional Service as a Civil Engineer from 1989 to 2018. Lawrence also received a commander's coin and her retirement certificate.

"You are a wonderful group of hard working, talented professionals," said Lawrence. "Thank you for all your help and positive influence. We have shared some laughs and some tears. It has been quite the ride; thank you for taking the journey with me. Whether I have known you for a few weeks, a few months, a few years or for 29 years;



Sheila Bergeron presents Beverly Lawrence with a remembrance brick during her retirement event.

Photos by Brian Murphy

I will cherish our relationship and the memories we have made together."

Lawrence's husband Dan and daughters Meredith and Marissa accompanied her to the lunch. Special guests included Tony Riccio, Lawrence's former boss and Corps employee, Mark Applebee, former Corps employee and Deirdre Dahlen of Battelle. Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Bob Harrington

and Ken Paton attended the lunch. Other retirees who came to welcome Lawrence into the retirement community were Raimo Liias, Frank Fedele, Yuri Yatsevitch, David Lubianez, Ella Minincleri, Greg Buteau, Judi Johnson, Ken Levitt and Maureen Murray.

During her retirement, Lawrence plans to enjoy life through trips to the beach, traveling and volunteering with the elderly at her church.



Beverly Lawrence receives a Superior Civilian Service Award for Exceptional Service from Scott Acone during the official portion of her retirement.



John Astley posed with the New England District Office of Counsel during Astley's retirement lunch, July 12.

Photos by Brian Murphy

District Counsel Astley retires with 42 years of service

Chief of Counsel and legal defender of the New England District, John Astley, made the decision to trade courtroom appearances for more time in the Great Outdoors when he announced his retirement on Aug. 1. Astley represented the District's legal interests for 15 of his 42 years of federal service.

A celebration of his long and distinguished career took place, July 12 at the Sandy Burr Country Club in Wayland, Massachusetts. Over 80 people served as witnesses to the retirement event and traveled from all over the country to wish Astley well.

Scott Acone, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management served as host for the official portion of the ceremony and was the first to testify to Astley's exceptional career with the District and presented him with a Bunker Hill plaque on behalf of the district to thank him for his service.

Astley not only kept the District on the straight-and-narrow, he also revitalized the Leadership Development Program. Mike Bachand, current head of the program, stepped to the front of the room to say a few words and to praise him for all the work he did with the program. He presented Astley with a photo and certificate signed by past and current Leadership Development Program Participants.

Special Star Witness Maureen McAndrew, from the North Atlantic Division Office of Counsel traveled all the way from Fort Hamilton, New York, to thank Astley for his service. She brought with her a letter of appreciation signed by USACE Chief Counsel David Cooper and a coin recognizing his service.

Other presenters were Ryan Killman who presented Astley with a gavel from the New England District Office of Counsel, Steve Dunbar and Fran Donovan. Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, was on hand to present Astley with a Meritorious Civilian Service award and his retirement certificate.

Astley's wife Kathy and daughters Kathryn, Kristin and Heather, as well as extended family joined him at the lunch. Col. (ret) Christopher Barron came to the event to wish Astley well. Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Fran Donovan and Bobby Byrne attended as did retirees Frank Fedele, Greg Buteau, Steven Andon, John Almeida and Bill Scully.

Astley came to the Corps of Engineers in March 2003, after a 27-year career in the Coast Guard and is a 1976 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy. He also holds a Master of Science degree from Florida Institute of Technology and graduated summa cum laude



Maureen McAndrew, NAD Division Counsel presents John Astley with a letter of appreciation from USACE Chief Counsel David Cooper.



Col. William Conde, District Commander, presents John Astley with a Meritorious Civilian Service Award.



Scott Accone presents John Astley with a Bunker Hill plaque.



John Astley playfully sets Ryan Killman to order after receiving a gavel.

from American University, Washington College of Law.

During his career with the Coast Guard, Mr. Astley served in a variety of marine safety/engineering and legal assignments. In his last assignment with the Coast Guard, he served for six years as the District Counsel for the First Coast Guard District, which ranges from Canada to New Jersey. Prior to working as District Counsel, Mr. Astley served as a professor of Maritime and International Law at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, where he published an article in the "Law of the Sea and Naval Operations." He also served as the Coast Guard's lead attorney in the Exxon Valdez case, while assigned to the Claims and Litigation Division in Washington.

Some of his most high profile cases at the New England District include negotiating a settlement for the protested New Bedford Harbor Total Environmental Restoration Contract, serving as lead for the CRREL land acquisition, and developing a strategy to allow the New England District to lease space from GSA.

Among his honors, in 2012 Mr. Astley received the Lester Edelman Spirit of Arrowhead Award, the highest award conferred by the Chief Counsel, for leadership

in legal services. He was the recipient of the Lawrence Schneider Award as the Department of Transportation's Outstanding Attorney. In 2014 Mr. Astley was the New England District's Supervisor of the Year. He also earned numerous military awards, including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Transportation 9-11 Medal, as well as Coast Guard Commendation and Achievement medals.

Astley plans to spend his retirement fishing, enjoying the outdoors, traveling and spending time with his family.



Mike Bachand prepares to present John Astley with a photo and certificate from past and present LDP members.

Dredging up the past



Park Rangers Natalie McComack and Matthew Cummings stand ready to talk water safety at the Old Home Day Festival in Tilton, New Hampshire in this June 28, 2009 photo.

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