



US Army Corps  
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# YANKEE ENGINEER

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BUILDING STRONG®



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# Yankee Voices

Pete Long, Eva Marie D'Antuono and Dave Margolis



## Congratulations...

...to Eva Marie D'Antuono, Deputy for Small Business, on receiving the Society of American Military Engineer's (SAME) S. Peter Volpe Award.

The award, SAME's highest honor, is given annually to a member of the Boston Post in recognition of their outstanding and meritorious service to the Post. Dave Margolis, Chief of Engineering Division, presented D'Antuono the award at the SAME Boston Post Annual Spring Meeting.

D'Antuono received the award for her tireless efforts that yielded SAME's Annual Small Business Showcase, providing attendees with opportunities to learn about contracts with various federal agencies. D'Antuono is a founding member of the Post's Small Business Committee.

*(Engineering Division Submission)*

## Words worth repeating

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

— Confucius

## Memorial Day 2022

Memorial Day is May 30, and while it marks the start of the summer and recreation season, it is also a solemn day when we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy the freedoms that we have.

I want to remind everyone of the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day. On Memorial Day we remember those who gave their lives in service to our country. We honor and thank our living service members on Veterans Day.

Memorial Day was first recognized as Decoration Day on May 5, 1868. A group of women decorating the graves of Confederate soldiers who died during the Civil War's battle of Shiloh in Columbus, Mississippi on April 25, 1866, served as inspiration for Decoration Day. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a veterans group comprised of former Union Army soldiers, issued General Order No. 11, calling for a national day of remembrance for Civil War dead. Maj. Gen. Logan pushed back Decoration Day to May 30 because he felt the most beautiful flowers would be in bloom throughout the nation and available to decorate graves. The Decoration Day observance became the Memorial Day national holiday in 1971 by an act of Congress. Today Americans still place flowers and flags at our nation's military graves. Wreath laying ceremonies, parades and other events also pay homage to our late heroes.

The annual National Moment of Remembrance will be held at 3 p.m., on Memorial Day. Congress passed the remembrance on December 2000 as P.L. 106-579. It is at that time when Americans are asked to pause whatever they're doing for a moment of silence to remember our fallen. I will be pausing at 3 p.m. to remember and thank all who made the ultimate sacrifice and encourage you to do so as well.

I also want you to be mindful of water safety this weekend. Wear a life jacket when you are out on the water. While I appreciate the concept of an ice-cold beer on a hot day, I also know that too many bottles can impede motor skills and judgement. Alcohol and water don't mix – plain and simple. Please be safe. My hope is that everybody fully enjoys the long weekend and comes back refreshed and healthy!

Enjoy the long weekend, be safe, and remember our fallen. I'll see you after the holiday.

Col. John A. Atilano II  
Commander, New England District



# Commander's Corner:

## Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

by **Col. John A. Atilano II**  
Commander, New England District

Team,

In May we celebrate the outstanding contributions made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) to our country and our history. AAPI Heritage month starts May 1 and ends May 31. This year's theme is, "Advancing Leaders through Collaboration."

As a member of the Armed Forces, I appreciate that AAPI service members have served in the military in every major conflict since the Civil War. They did this proudly, even though citizenship and voting rights were not available to most until the passage of the Immigration and Nationality Acts of 1952 and 1965.

While all served their country willingly and with dedication, there were some service members who exhibited leadership and bravery above and beyond. Thirty-three of these heroes are AAPI Congressional Medal Honor Recipients. The first is Hawaiian-born Seaman James West. On April 12, 1872, West was serving aboard the U.S.S. KANSAS when the ship's Commodore and others drowned near Greytown, Nicaragua. Smith demonstrated leadership and heroism by keeping calm during the situation and prevented a greater loss of life.

The latest AAPI Medal of Honor recipient is U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Rodney Yano. In Vietnam, while serving as a crew chief aboard his troop's helicopter, Yano was injured by a grenade that exploded prematurely. The grenade sent flaming fragments flying throughout the helicopter, detonating supplies and ammunition. Yano



sacrificed himself and received additional wounds when he threw blazing ammunition out of the helicopter and saved the pilot and crew.

Another Medal of Honor recipient, U.S. Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Daniel K. Inouye, who received the medal for heroism during World War II, went on to become the first Japanese American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and the first Japanese American to serve in the U.S. Senate. I thank them all for their bravery, their sacrifice, and their service to our nation.

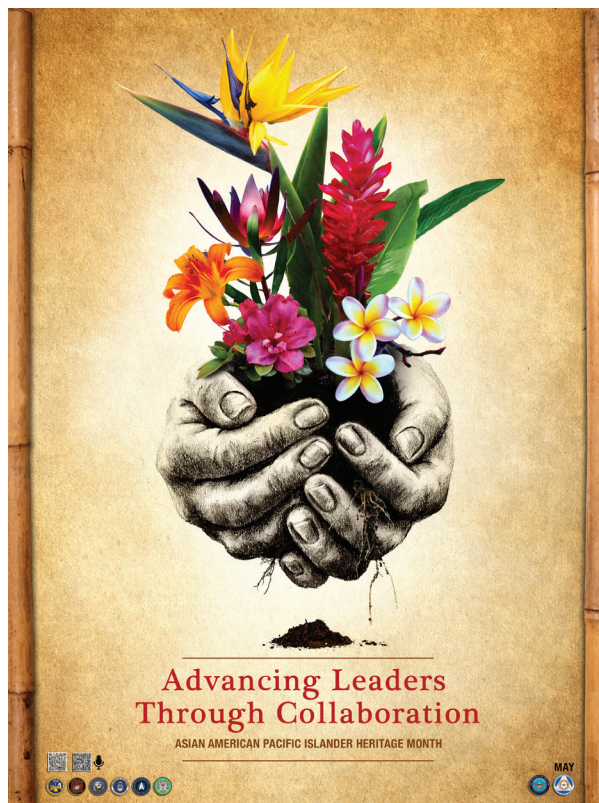
About six percent of our Army identifies as AAPI, and there are many amazing ground breakers who have paved the way for future AAPI leaders in the U.S. Army. Gen. Eric Shinseki, is the First Asian four-star General and 34th Chief of Staff of the Army, Secretary of Veteran Affairs. Brig. Gen. Viet Xuan Luong was the Vietnamese-born General Flag Officer in the U.S. military and Col. Young O. Kim, the first Korean American Officer to command an Army Battalion. This is just a very short list.

Our AAPI team members here at New England District are vital to our success for New England residents and the nation. I am proud of you, and I am honored that you are a part of our great organization.

Please join me in acknowledging the hard work and dedication our AAPI team members do – not just during this month, but every day.

I'd like to thank Melody Bruhn, Facility Specialist, USACE Logistics Activity (NAE), for volunteering to head up the District's AAPI observance. Stay tuned for more information from Melody.

President Joe Biden's proclamation can be found here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/04/29/a-proclamation-on-asian-american-native-hawaiian-and-pacific-islander-heritage-month-2022/>





Ceremony participants pose for a picture during the Blain Bridge ribbon cutting ceremony.

Photo by Brian Murphy

## West Thompson Lake team cuts ribbon on Blain Bridge

The West Thompson Lake team hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Blain Bridge, April 22, at the project in North Grosvenordale, Connecticut.

Park Manager Ed Greenough served as moderator for the speaking portion of the ceremony.

Greenough introduced Eric Pedersen, Chief of Operations Division, Amy St. Onye, Selectwoman for the town of Thomaston; Karen Durlach, Chair of the Thomaston Trails Committee; Bill Reid, Chief Ranger at the Last Green Valley, Congressman Joe Courtney and Senator Richard Blumenthal, who all made remarks. Brianna DeVivo represented Senator Christopher Murphy, who was unable to attend.

Pedersen told the audience that during routine bridge inspections in 2009, a number of critical safety issues were identified on the old bridge.

“The repairs needed for the bridge were not cost efficient and the original bridge was removed in 2012,” he said.

Efforts began to replace the bridge with a modern, better designed bridge that would address reducing potential damage from frequent flooding. Pedersen said the surrounding community made significant efforts to getting the new bridge. He thanked the engineering students from the University of Connecticut for coming up with the first conceptual designs in 2015. He also thanked Sen. Blumenthal for securing the funding in 2021 to replace the bridge.

Ludlow Associates, LLC of Pequabuck, Connecticut, constructed the bridge in eight months at a cost of \$350,000. The loss of the bridge meant hikers could no longer traverse the 3.5-mile loop trail across the Quinebaug River and had to use much longer

loop trails around the lake. The bridge brings back that popular walking and hiking route.

“Working with our partners, the town of Thompson, their Trails Committee and The Last Green Valley, this day represents the fruits of a lot of hard work by many,” said Pedersen. “We hope everyone that recreates here will enjoy the new Blain Bridge today and for many years to come.”

Prior to the ceremony, West Thompson Lake’s partners held a series of event for attendees.

The Last Green Valley hosted a two-mile nature hike lead by Reid and Park Ranger James Higgins, and a one half mile paddle led by The Last Green Valley’s Lyann Graff and Park Ranger Justine Lindsay.

The New England Mountain Bike Associate hosted a three-mile mountain bike ride.

## New England District team members visit Green Harbor dredging project

Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli, Deputy District Engineer and New England District Team members Scott Acone, William Kavanaugh, Beth Gosselin, Sally Rigione and Brian Murphy joined Congressional representatives and members of the Marshfield Harbor Master's Office on a site visit to Marshfield, Massachusetts, April 28 to see the maintenance dredging of the Green Harbor Federal Navigation Project.

Representatives from Senator Ed Markey, Congressman Bill Keating and Massachusetts State Representative Josh Cutler's offices attended the April site visit.

"This has been a long-anticipated project for many boaters of Green Harbor," said Mike DiMeo, Marshfield Harbor Master. "Especially for our commercial fleets that rely heavily on our waterway for their business and safety."

According to Project Manager Bill Kavanaugh, Jr., the project was



The USACE dredge MURDEN arrives to haul away material offsite.

Photos by Brian Murphy

originally planned to be one project, but was split into two phases because critical shoaling was hindering search and rescue missions by the Marshfield Harbor Master.

"In late April, the Harbor Master responded to a search and rescue

of three fisherman off the coast of Scituate," said Kavanaugh. "After he completed his mission, he was unable to return to port for three hours and had to wait for the tide to come in."

Phase 1, which is now complete, was to dredge the entrance channel using landside excavators and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) dredge MURDEN to haul away material to the nearshore placement site off of Green Harbor beach.

Kavanaugh said that approximately 20,000 cubic yards of sand and cobbles were excavated by heavy equipment operators from the Mississippi Valley Division and stockpiled on the shore until the MURDEN was able to haul it all out. The one-million-dollar project began on April 4 and was completed May 1.

Plans and specifications for Phase 2 are in final development and will include minor dredging in the entrance channel and dredging the inner harbor anchorage area. Kavanaugh anticipates Phase 2 dredging to begin in the fall if approvals and funding are obtained.



Inset: Lt. Col. Michael Carvelli (left) looks at a map with Scott Acone, Mike DiMeo and Bill Kavanaugh. Above: Landside excavators from Mississippi River Valley Division remove material from Green Harbor Beach.

# Knightsville Dam and Littleville Lake release water for annual race

Knightsville Dam and Littleville Lake initiated water releases for the 67<sup>th</sup> annual Westfield River Wild Water races, April 24. The event was hosted by the Westfield River Water Association and the Westfield River Wildwater Canoe Club and are the country's oldest continuous white water races.

About 200 paddlers brought their kayaks and canoes to participate in the event. According to Park Ranger Lydia Graham, as many as 80 spectators gathered at the Knightsville Dam recreation area to cheer on their favorite paddlers.

"There are two races," she said. "The expert race, which is five miles long, started on USACE property at Knightsville Dam. The classic race started downstream and is about six miles. The majority of the event occurred off of USACE property, but there was a great turnout and a very happy crowd at Knightsville that morning for the expert race send off."

Graham said water was released from Littleville Lake into the Middle Branch and water was released from Knightsville into the East Branch. Both the branches joined together with the West Branch to create the Westfield River.

"I worked directly with our Reservoir Control Center to coordinate water releases through gate changes at both the Knightsville Dam and Littleville Lake to achieve the requested CFS for the event," she said.

Once the gate changes were made, Graham coordinated



Race participants make their way down the Westfield River.

with state and local police on how to contact her in an emergency. At the start line of the expert race, Graham answered questions from the public and cheered on Park Ranger Colin Monkiewicz, who paddled the expert race and came in third place.

As expected, Graham said everyone who attended the event had a great time.

"The event was a great success, and I was able to provide some great information to visitors and spectators," she said.



Paddlers meet at the start line for the expert race at Knightsville Dam.

## Jay Clement receives De Fleury Medal

Jay Clement, Regulatory Maine Project office retiree, received a Bronze de Fleury Medal during Regulatory's "Regulatory 11A Training," held at the Concord Park Headquarters in Concord, Massachusetts, April 12.

The de Fleury Medal, an award of the U.S. Army Engineer Association, was named in honor of François-Louis Teissèdre de Fleury, a French Engineer in the Continental Army. The de Fleury Medal is awarded to those who have made significant contributions to Army Engineering.

Clement received the award for exceptional service to the U.S. Army Engineer Regiment for four decades of extraordinary contributions to support the Army's ability to deliver a multifaceted Regulatory Program.

According to the medal citation, "Jay's efforts as a military officer and career Civilian have significantly contributed to the overall readiness of the Army and its ability to deliver vital engineering solutions, to secure our nation's economy and reduce disaster risk."

Clement joined USACE in New England in 1982 and established and managed the Maine Project Office in 1984. He retired Dec. 31, 2021, with almost four decades of service and received a Meritorious Civilian Service Award at the time of his retirement.



Jay Clement (left) receives the Bronze de Fleury Medal from New England District Commander, Col. John Atilano II.

## Greenan receives medal from Seattle District

Two members of the New England District Regulatory team received prestigious awards for assisting another USACE District with its Regulatory needs.

Colin Greenan received the Civilian Service Commendation Medal following his completion of an extended detail over a 7-½ month period in support of the Aquaculture Reinforcement team.

Christine Jacek received the Civilian Service Achievement Medal after completing a six month detail in support of Seattle District's Aquaculture Reinforcement team.

This national team was formed to assist the Seattle District in evaluating approximately 900 permit applications in the state of Washington.

Greenan was recognized by the aquaculture community for his superior customer service, and he was selected to develop a training plan for new staff, greatly increasing the effectiveness of the team. Jacek received her award for her phenomenal work maintaining a positive attitude while managing an overwhelming workload.

Greenan's medal was awarded by Col. Alexander



Col. Alexander Bullock presents Colin Greenan with a Civilian Service Commendation Medal as Amy Reese looks on.

Bullock and Amy Reese, Chief Operations Division during project close-out at the end of March. Jacek was unable to attend the ceremony in person and received her award by mail.

# Dredging up the past



Photo by Brian Murphy

Col. Charles Samaris, Division Commander, presents Richard Roach with his retirement certificate during his luncheon at the Hanscom Officer's Club in this May 24, 2014 photo.

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