

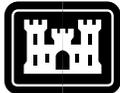


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**US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District**

Volume 36, No. 2

Yankee Engineer

November 2000

Commander, Color Guard join town on Veterans Day

Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer, and the New England District Ranger Color Guard participated in the town of Concord's Veterans Day parade and U.S. flag retirement ceremony, November 11.

The flag retirement ceremony took place during the early morning hours at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord. Hundreds of residents turned out for the parade and ceremony, with many bringing their worn "Stars and Stripes" to retire.

Concord's flag retirement ceremony has been an annual event since 1965, and was instituted by James Carroll, Francis McDonald, Bernard Rushe, and Thomas Tombeno of Concord and Clark McElevin of Acton. The group proposed that each year, before winter's arrival, worn U.S. flags would be collected and retired in an appropriate manner.

The New England District has been invited to, and has participated in, each Veterans Day ceremony in Concord

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Photo by C.J. Allen

Col. Osterndorf, a member of the VFW, and the District Ranger Color Guard prepare to raise the U.S. flag at the Gold Star Mothers Hill at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Yankee Voices



Bob Hanacek
Construction/Operations

Inclement Weather Hotline

The Inclement Weather Hotline is ready for the winter season. For up-to-date information on closings or delayed openings, District employees are asked to call 978-318-8346, listen to WRKO (680 AM) or watch Channel 7's Morning News.

The point of contact for questions regarding the Inclement Weather Hotline is Ann Marie Harvie in the Public Affairs Office. She can be reached either by e-mail or by calling 978-318-8777.

Words worth repeating

I live by this credo: Have a little laugh at life and look around you for happiness instead of sadness. Laughter has always brought me out of unhappy situations. Even in your darkest moment, you usually can find something to laugh about if you try hard enough.

- *Red Skelton (1913-1997),
Comedian*

Congratulations

...to **William Walker** of Survey Unit and his wife, **Dilia**, on the birth of their daughter, **Isabelle Korin**, October 22. Isabelle, the couple's third child, weighed eight pounds, two ounces. She joins her two sisters, **Sarah** and **Christina**, in the family circle.

...to **David Schafer** and **Greg Hanlon** of the Water Management Section, Reservoir Regulation Team. They have been approved to prepare and present a professional paper at the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI), World Water & Environmental Resource Congress to be held on May 20-24, 2001 in Orlando, Florida. The name of the paper is "Data Collection for Watershed Management." This is a very prestigious honor to be accepted into this conference, and it is a great opportunity to showcase our local expertise from the Corps of Engineers and especially the District.

...to **Mike Tarnowski**, Engineering/Planning Division, and his wife, **Amy**, on the birth of their son, **Adam Michael** November 9. Adam, the couple's second child, weighed six pounds, 12 ounces and was 19 inches long. He joins his sister, **Abbey**, in the family circle.

...to Engineering retiree **Robert Maki** for becoming a published author. Mr. Maki's suspense novel, "The Briefcase" is available in paperback version from Xlibris Publishers.

Sympathy

...to **Carmen Suarez**, Engineering/Planning, Water Mgmt. Br., and her family on the recent loss of her mother, **Emma Galindo**.

...to the family of Operations retiree **Walter Turner**, who passed away October 13.

Mr Turner worked for many years as the assistant damtender at the Everett Dam in Weare, New Hampshire, and retired in 1985. He served in the Pacific theater in WWII and was decorated with the Purple Heart.

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-81 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Boston, Mass. Circulation 1700. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil>

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Commander's Corner:

The New Chief's Message is 'Just do it'



As I write this, the nation still awaits the outcome of the Presidential election, and with that result, the new direction our nation will follow for the next four years. We, as members of the Corps, now know which new direction we will be following thanks to the insights

LTG Robert Flowers gave his senior leaders at a conference held in Seattle in late October.

The new Chief is a great believer in the Corps, the work we do and the people that are the Corps. He points out that, year after year, more Americans say they trust the military than any other institution, and his long-range goal is to have Americans talk about the Army Corps of Engineers exactly that way. In fact, the Chief believes that if we truly excel, within four years, the Corps will be mentioned first. His direction to us is we are already relevant – we will become indispensable to our nation!

LTG Flowers summarized his intent this way:

- Provide Excellence with Integrity and Credibility;
- Serve the Nation through Effective Advocacy for Water Resources Development;
- Accomplish Environmental Stewardship; and
- Seek Consensus – Do What is Right.

The Chief describes "synergy" as the method by which we will accomplish this intent. He cites Stephen Covey's concept of creating win-win outcomes, outcomes better than individual alternatives. When we can present solutions to our nation, through our customers, that meet this definition, we will earn their trust and respect.

LTG Flowers believes in you and your ability to achieve these goals. He entrusts you with four responsibilities:

1. Know Your Job – Be technically proficient;
2. Be Situationally Aware – Understand what the Team needs and how you can contribute;
3. Be Healthy – Body, Mind and Spirit; and
4. Live and Work By the Golden Rule – Every individual is Due Dignity and Respect.

One of the Chief's guiding principles is that he believes in you, and wants you to have the power to create opportunities for synergy and accomplishing our missions.

To remind each of us of this, we will each be issued "Just Do It" cards, as simple guides to help us figure out what to do in tough situations. The card's message will be to ask yourself three things when trying to determine how to proceed:

1. Is it Good for my Customer?
2. Is it Legal and Ethical?
3. Is it something I am willing to be Accountable for?

Once you have determined that the answers to the above questions are YES, then go ahead and DO IT. You don't need to ask for permission, because you already have it.

I think you will like the things that are happening in the Corps. LTG Flowers is a very personable and charismatic leader, who enjoys getting out to all of the Districts and meeting people. His staff is aggressively scheduling visits, and the Chief wants to incorporate townhall meetings into each visit. It doesn't appear that the Chief will get to New England until early next spring, and by then you will have certainly begun to see the new directions and ideas that are already taking shape. And I know you will like them.



Photo by Dave Kratz.

Jamming with the Scouts

The New England Districts set up a tent with activities during the Massachusetts Boy Scout Jamboree October 21. Over 4,800 scouts visited the District Park Rangers who worked the event.

Popular attractions at the tent were the dam model and the mounted animals. The Park Rangers who worked in the tent were Dave Hebert, Vinnie Gualtieri, Dave Kratz, Dave Stiddem, Mark Wilmes. Park Rangers who helped with tent set up and other logistics were Jeff Phillips, and James West.

Cost Engineer of the year: Karen Schofield, Engineering/Planning

Karen E. Schofield, Engineering/Planning, has been named the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Cost Engineer of the Year.

The Cost Engineer of the Year award is an annual presentation. It is given to one cost engineer, either civilian or military, in recognition for his or her contribution to the cost engineering profession. The award recognizes a creative and dedicated individual who is committed to improving the quality of cost engineering in the Corps of Engineers.

According to the nomination package, Karen is that person. "She has consistently performed her duties in a highly professional and competent manner," wrote Col. Brian E. Osterndorf, District Engineer. "She is a credit to the District and her profession."

Karen was recognized for her contributions as a member of the national subcommittees responsible for the development of the TRACES Unit Price Book and the next generation software

for cost estimating, M32. "Her work has been invaluable in the formulation of these products to enhance the capability of the entire Corps Cost Engineering community," said Chris Lindsay, Team Leader, Cost Engineering Section. He collaborated with Tony Mackos, Chief of Design Branch, for the nomination submission.

Col. Osterndorf cited Karen's work on the New Bedford Superfund Project. It is a large, high profile project that involves the remediation of contaminated sediments in the harbor.

According to the nomination package, this includes the construction of several containment structures in the harbor in which to place and cap the material, as well as the relocation of major outfall conduits.

Karen worked to develop detailed estimates for various segments of work and reviewed submittals. "Her work on the project is particularly noteworthy as a highly complex, high profile effort in which her products served to

provide sound bases for negotiations leading to successful awards," said Col. Osterndorf.

"This prestigious award to Karen is well deserved," said Bob Hunt, New Bedford Superfund Project Manager. "She has provided an extensive amount of support to the New Bedford Harbor Superfund project over the past several years with the appreciation of our customer, EPA, while meeting some very demanding schedules. She's a joy to work with and is a credit to the Corps and her profession--she always gives that 110-percent."

"In three words it's challenging, educational, and rewarding," said Karen of working on the project. "I get to do a little more than the usual cost estimate because this project encompasses a wide array of activities and is so complex."

"Karen has become an authoritative resource for managers, designers, and peers," said Chris.

In addition to her duties in Engineering/Planning, Karen was also a key member of the Civilian Welfare Fund Council and the Recycling Committee. The Civilian Welfare Fund Council's function was to develop and manage funds used for a social nature for the New England District. The committee has now disbanded and its mission has been taken over by the Work Environment (WE) Committee.

The Recycling Committee continues to oversee the management of recyclable material, primarily paper and beverage containers. "I take my returns one step further to help the community by bringing returnables to the Waverly Can and Redemption Center in Waltham," said Karen. "The Fernald School gets seven cents on every item so that they keep two cents and the WE Committee gets five cents. Every little



Photo by Mark McInerney

Karen Schofield is the Corps' Cost Engineer of the Year.

Continued on Page 10

District celebrates Native American/Alaskan Native Heritage

The Native American/Alaskan Native Employment Program focused on the culture of the Nipmuc Nation of New England during its annual observance held November 7 in the Concord Park cafeteria.

Lt. Col. John Rovero, Deputy District Engineer, served as host for the celebration. "Sometimes it appears we forget to recognize the achievements or even the presence of Native American groups within our midst – groups which persevere and thrive as they adhere to their tradition," he said.

The Nipmuc Tribe spans the central portion of Massachusetts, Northern Connecticut and Rhode Island, according to Lt. Col. Rovero.

He introduced Ron "Little Crow" Henries; Carol "Red Sunset" Palavre, Hawk Henries, and West Hill Dam Park Ranger Bradley "Big Tree" Walley.

Mr. Walley recited a traditional Nipmuc Prayer to the Creator before the keynote speaker, Ron "Little Crow" Henries took to the floor. Mr. Henries said as Nipmuc people he and the other speakers came to the District to eradicate some of the falsehoods and false



Hawk Henries plays a Native American flute during the celebration.

images that people have of Native people in general and more particularly about Nipmuc people.

Mr. Henries gave a brief history of his life from a young child to adult and how the Native American culture shaped him as a person. "Nipmuc might be a way for me to travel and a way for me to remember some things that have been handed down to me, that I acknowledge now because I know they are a part of life," he said. "But

human beings are more important to me. I think that other parts of creation are more important to me."

The next speaker, Carol "Red Sunset" Palavre, displayed and explained a Native American talking stick. Whoever holds the stick gets the audience's undivided attention. "They don't have to agree, but they listen," she said. "Respect is uppermost."

Ms. Palavre said that women play a large role in Native American culture. "We are the glue that keeps the fabric together," she said.

Ms. Palavre displayed and discussed other items of Native American culture to include children's toys and garden tools. Concluding her discussion, Ms. Palavre took questions from the audience.

Hawk Henries, Nipmuc flutist and the final presenter, talked about the "boxes" that society places certain cultures in. "I'm of the opinion that as long as we continue to keep each other in boxes then we'll never know each other. And if we never know each other then we continue to do things that hurt each other."

Mr. Henries said that, ultimately, he would like to know peace both for himself and the world. "That means coming out of our boxes, touching each other and being touched by each other," he said.

Mr. Henries concluded the presentation with several Native American prayer songs and explained their meaning.

Lt. Col. Rovero presented the speakers with a Bunker Hill plaque and Dianna Rider, EEO Officer, acknowledged key persons responsible for putting together the celebration. A reception featuring samples of Native American cuisine followed the presentation.

Members of the Native American/Alaska Native Program Committee are Mark Paiva (Manager), Janet Brayden, Jerry Nunziato, Bradley Walley, Bob Russo, and Joy Geisinger.



Photos by Mark McInerney.

Lt. Col. Rovero presents the speakers with a Bunker Hill plaque for joining the District in celebrating Native American/Alaskan Native Heritage Month.



Jamie Kordack, Rick Magee, Vince Kordack (back row), and the Junior Park Rangers (front row) make the Haunted Dam Tour memorable.



Jean Hixson greets attendees at the Haunted Dam entrance.

Haunted Dam tours at Buffumville a hit with visitors

Halloween in New England is a tradition people both young and old enjoy. It's carved Jack-O-Lanterns and trick-or-treats. It's spiced apple cider and candy corns. It's hooting owls and scary ghost stories like the famous, local "Legend of Sleepy Hollow." It is also the time for Haunted Happenings in Salem, Mass., and Haunted Dam Tours and Ghost Stories at New England District's Buffumville Lake.

Buffumville Lake hosts the annual Haunted Dam Tours in celebration of Halloween. Deep within the bowels of Buffumville Dam, creepy crawlers and ghoulish ghosts laid in wait October 28 for unsuspecting visitors to venture through during the 9th annual event.

Led by Park Ranger Jean Hixson, over 80 (some costumed) thrill seekers dared enter the dark, cobwebbed "spookiest place on earth" to face the things that go bump in the night—also known as Buffumville Lake's Junior Ranger volunteers. Tours were held at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon. Assisting Jean and the Junior Rangers were Park Rangers

Jamie Kordack, Rick Magee. Vincent Kordack and Jeffrey Magee also lent a helping hand.

In addition to the Haunted Dam tours, Buffumville Lake started bonfires on the beach for an evening of ghost story telling October 14. About 1,000 visitors sat around toasting marshmallows, listening to Ranger Jean spin scary yarns about witches, cauldrons and days of old. Some guests also told a tale or two. A local psychic performed various spooky fortune-telling to scare guests and add fun to the event. One of the highlights of the evening was the Jack-O-Lantern contest, where approximately 25 skillfully carved pumpkins vied for a special prize.

The unseasonably warm night and a full moon helped to make Buffumville Beach a perfect backdrop for this first annual event. "Scary volunteers" helping Jean were Junior Rangers and parents, Jamie Kordack, Jim Hachigian (Maintenance Worker), Melanie Herron, Rick Magee and Clifford Reiss (Volunteer Office Clerk).



Joe Bocchino, Executive Assistant, and his children take part in the tour.

Photos by C.J. Allen



The Buffumville ghouls "attack" the visitors during the tour.

Popular game makes lunchtime fun at Concord Park

“Who wants to be a millionaire?”

This question, spouted by Regis Philbin on his popular game show, has fast become the buzz phrase of the new Millennium. The show has spawned t-shirts, computer games and a lot of imitations. One such mimicry of “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” took place every Tuesday at lunchtime at the New England District for nearly two months, much to the delight and entertainment of its employees. The championship match was played October 31.

Sponsored by the Work Environment Committee and supported by Master of Ceremonies Richard “Regis” Carlson, Chief, Construction/ Operations, the game drew 16 teams from all over the District to match wits against each other.

“We were looking for ways to promote good-natured interoffice competition,” said Jim Crawford, Chair of the WE Committee. “The sports tournaments that we recently awarded trophies for were great, but they're seasonal and also some people can't participate in them for a variety of reasons. We had several ideas for noontime competition, including an “Equiz,” where teams would gather around PC's to receive and answer trivia questions electronically. But all of them required time to develop. We knew that the Millionaire game had gone over well at last year's holiday party, and we already knew from that event that it would run just fine in the theatre. So we decided to go with it as the best way to get something in place quickly.”

Each week, teams went head to head to answer trivia questions to advance to the next round. Teams sat down to a large projection screen and that displayed the questions from the popular CD version of the game.

Dan Bradley, Survey, served as the producer/director/coordinator/key puncher and typed the team's answers into the computer.

Once the team missed a question, their winnings were

tabulated and then the next team, their opponents for the match, would try to beat that score. Dick performed his “Regis” role every week. “Dick was the MC during the holiday party, so he was the first candidate who came to mind,” said Jim. “Some felt he might be too shy or quiet for the role, but his uncanny resemblance to Regis Philbin - once we gave him more hair - was the clincher. He did a great job and was there for every match.”

Every Tuesday, District employees crowded into the Concord Park theatre to cheer on their favorite team. The games were quick, and often two matches were played in the same week. The ultimate winner of the tournament, the Contracting team, was the only team to hit the million-dollar mark. Team members included Norman Krause (who was also the WE Committee's



Graphic image created by Joe Bacigalupo.

Dick “Regis” Carlson, the Master of Ceremonies for the “Millionaire” matches and all around good sport, appeared in this graphic representation of his alter-ego for a promotional poster.

first Employee of the Month), Charles Coe, Rachel Raposa, Carol Hubblee, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Eva Marie D'Antuono, Robert Gauvreau, and Julie Mackley.

Future matches of “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire” are in the works, according to Jim. “We've made sure that the trophy that Contracting will be receiving has plenty of space for the names of future winners, just as we did for the sports trophies,” he said. “I'm not sure at this point whether it will be an annual event or more frequent, but I wouldn't be surprised if it shows up on the holiday party agenda again.”

The WE Committee also plans similar noontime challenges for those who are interested in participating.

“In addition to the Equiz that I mentioned, chess and checkers tournaments are still possibilities. By the way, we can always use volunteer help in running things like that,” said Jim. “For those people who are old enough to remember the College Bowl series that ran on TV some years ago, we've also talked about doing something along that line, with offices in place of colleges.”

Volunteers, employees participate in Grand Trunk Trunk Day

The staff at East Brimfield Lake, Westville Lake, and Conant Brook Dam hosted and planned Grand Trunk Trail Day at the Westville Lake Recreation Area in Sturbridge, Massachusetts October 28. The event was held to create a four-mile walking path on the Grand Trunk Trail network and the Heritage Trail extension through Southbridge and Sturbridge. Grand Trunk Trail Day attracted attention to the trail and put volunteers on Corps lands doing trail tread improvement and clearing work much like the District's Public Lands Day events.

The Corps owns approximately 80-percent of the old Grand Trunk Railroad right-of-way in the Westville Lake region. Sections of the abandoned railroad bed have been used as a trail for years behind Westville Recreation Area. In recent years, the District has wanted to improve the recreational capabilities of the area. Park Manager Keith Beecher and Park Rangers Merl Bassett and Tom Chamberland saw the possibilities for trail development and moved quickly to make it a reality. When the opportunity to work with other federal and local agencies on the Grand Trunk Trail arose, they unified the effort and hosted the event.

Over 130 volunteers participated in Grand Trunk Trail Day. Work included cutting brush and making drainage improvements along several new sections of the trail along the Quinebaug River in Southbridge and Sturbridge. "Volunteers are an indispensable work force, enabling us to complete tasks that would take years to accomplish or that could not be accomplished at all," said Park Manager Keith Beecher. "I am extremely grateful and humbled by all of the support the people in the surrounding communities have given us...it truly is a pleasure to work closely with such a fine group. I'd also like to thank Operations Manager Bob



Ranger Merlon Bassett maps out the project area.

Photo by Thomas Ayau.

Hanacek and Park Managers Dave Hebert, West Hill Dam, and Kate Higgins, West Thompson Lake, for their unending support to my fine staff, Merl Bassett and Tom Chamberland and myself."

Thomas Ayau, Engineering/Planning, was one of the volunteers who rolled up his sleeves and helped. "I live a couple of blocks away, and I walk my dog around the trail," he said. "I think it's great that they've decided to develop a clearer path for people to enjoy. It will make walking a lot safer."

According to Park Ranger Merlon Bassett, the event was very successful for the Grand Trunk Trail and the Heritage Trail effort. "An estimated 780 hours of volunteer hours was performed at a contracted cost of \$12 per hour for a total of \$9,360," he said.



Photo by Ken Pickren

Some work required heavy equipment to be brought in.



Photo by Thomas Ayau

Volunteers, supervised by a Corps Park Ranger, work on a footbridge as part of Grand Trunk Trail Day.

According to Merl, volunteer hours from skilled labor and planning for trail day preparation were 144 hours for an estimated contracted value of \$3,400. This gives a grand total of \$12,760 in contracted value from this volunteer event. "In one day, the existing Southbridge Heritage Trail was extended to connect with Westville Park," he continued. "The students of Southbridge High School, Southbridge and Sturbridge residents and the Southbridge Department of Public Works accomplished this. Before this, Southbridge residents could only reach the park by driving; now they can walk along a trail that parallels the river. The Grand Trunk Trail, which did not exist before now, is a walkable four-mile trail on the old rail bed from Westville Park to the future trailhead at Hebert's Candy Mansion on Route 15, Sturbridge."

Future work will include a footbridge over the Quinebaug River and the continuation of the trail downstream of the Westville Dam into Southbridge on the rail bed to a trailhead off Route 131; the Heritage Trail will connect to the Grand Trunk Trail via the current Corps road; and expand the trail from a footpath to a 10-foot gravel path.

Other sponsors of the event were the Appalachian Mountain Club, Grand Trunk Trail Blazers, Opacum Land Trust, Quinebaug-Sketucket National Heritage Corridor, the towns of Southbridge and Sturbridge and the National Park Service.

The New England District supplied equipment for the day's work. The Town of Southbridge donated the talents of the Town Engineer, who is on the trail committee, along with three workers, tractor, wood chipper and dump truck, and the Town Manager. Millennium Power, a local electricity generating facility, donated the food items and drinks which included donuts and cider for all the volunteers. The local McDonald's donated a five gallon insulated jug of coffee with cups, cream and sugar. The Sturbridge Fire Fighter Association donated the use of three large coffee urns for warming up cider, hot chocolate and hot water. County Line Hardware of Brimfield and Opacum Land Trust of Sturbridge donated miscellaneous items such as cups, bags of ice and necessary hot beverage condiments. East Acres Farms of Southbridge donated equipment and labor during the trail day preparation. In addition, the Quinebaug/Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, through the coordination of the National Park Service, donated the consulting services of Carl Demrow, a nationally recognized "trail boss" with expertise in trail design and building using volunteers.

District employees who assisted in planning and executing the event were Park Manager Keith Beecher, Park Rangers Merlon Bassett, and Thomas Chamberland, stationed at East Brimfield Lake, Westville Lake and Conant Brook Dam; Tim Russell from West Thompson Lake, and Pat Tetreault from West Hill Dam. Jan Szwed, Environmental Compliance Officer for the Thames River Basin, also provided invaluable support before and throughout the day of the event.

Walking Weekend 2000 completes a successful season for District's West Thompson Lake

As the last leaves fell off the all but bare tree branches in New England, the Park Manager and Park Rangers at West Thompson Lake in Connecticut reflected on their successful interpretive programs in 2000. One such program was Walking Weekend 2000 -- consisting of approximately 72 walks during the three-day Columbus Day Weekend.

The New England District, Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, Northeast Connecticut Visitors District, and the Sturbridge Area Information Center sponsored many weekend events, in both Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Approximately 70 people participated in the events at West Thompson and Mansfield Hollow lakes. Park Rangers Ed Greenough and Tim Russell presented two shoreline walks along West Thompson Lake.

Park Ranger Wayne Hawthorne hosted the Connecticut Bird Observatory's bird walk at Mansfield Hollow Lake, and Park Manager Catherine Higgins hosted a West Thompson villager's historical tour of Old West Thompson Village. Alice Biesiadecki, who grew up in West Thompson Village, presented the program.

"The guide brought both personal and Thompson Historical Society photographs of homesteads and local businesses that had been located adjacent to what was then the Quinebaug River, prior to dam construction and impoundment," said Catherine.

West Thompson Lake was dropped two feet to accommodate participant discussion with the tour guide about what was and is below the surface, but is seldom revealed. Originally scheduled as a two-hour program, the enthusiasm of the participants lengthened it to three and one half-hours.

Walking Weekend 2000 was only one of many programs presented or hosted by park personnel this year. Park Rangers also hosted 12 "Discovering Birds" programs, which were cosponsored by the Connecticut Bird Observatory.

West Thompson Lake has activities year-round. To find out more information about recreational opportunities, please call 860-923-2982 or visit their web site at <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/wthom7.htm>.



Col. Osterndorf salutes during the flag retirement ceremony.

A Concord citizen gives her flag up for retirement.

Photos by C.J. Allen

Commander, Color Guard join town on Veterans Day

Continued from page 1
since the District moved into the area in 1996.

Veteran's Day, November 11, honors the millions of men and women who served in the armed forces. Many have given their lives to defend our country.

The original Veterans Day was called Armistice Day, honoring the anniversary of the signing of a treaty

between the Allied and Central Powers in 1918 to end World War I. The Armistice prompted a day of spontaneous parades, business closings and celebration around the world.

As World War I became a distant memory, public interest in observing the holiday waned. Veteran's groups pushed to have the observance honor all veterans. The day became Veteran's Day in 1954, designated as a day to pay

tribute to all military personnel who served in American wars.

November 11 is celebrated in other countries as Remembrance Day, Armistice Day, Victory Day, or World War I Memorial Day.

The District employees who made up the Color Guard for the Veterans Day activities were Joe Faloretti, Merlon Bassett, Bob Hanacek, and Mike Curran.

Schofield is the Corps of Engineers Cost Engineer of the Year

Continued from page 4

bit helps and the further we can spread the benefit, the better. After all, I feel helping the community and the environment is a significant part of the work we do everyday at the New England District."

Karen joined the Corps in New England in 1990 after graduating at the top of her class from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. She began her career in the Water Control Division and then transferred to the Cost Engineer Division where she currently works. Karen recently passed the Tri-Services exam to become a Certified Cost Consultant. A Certified Cost Consultant (CCC) is a

professional Tri-services (Army, Navy and Air Force) recognition for an individual which is meant to raise the professional standards and improve the practices of cost engineering similar to the way a P.E. after a persons name signifies a Professional Engineer. "It's a nice honor and distinction to have," she said. "It also increases the awareness of cost engineering within the Tri-services."

The Corps of Engineers "Cost Engineer of the Year" award will be presented to Karen at the next meeting of the Tri-services Cost Engineering Steering Committee, to be held November 27-28 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"I was shocked that afternoon

when I received the call from Headquarters telling me I had been chosen," said Karen. "To be honest with you I didn't even know such an award existed, let alone that Chris Lindsay, my team leader, and Tony Mackos, my supervisor, had put me in for it. I appreciate that they took the time (which is harder and harder to find) to submit my application. If they hadn't put forth the effort, I wouldn't have been able to receive this award. It's a great honor to be picked by a private sector panel to receive this Corpswide recognition. I'm proud to accept the award and to put New England District in the spotlight."

Retirees Corner

John F. Murphy remembered at 95

Story and photos
by Ed Courtemanche
Contracting retiree

Diddle Diddle Dumplin, my friend John. Well, I guess he was not just my friend, he was a friend to all who knew him. As installation manager at the Waltham Federal Center, he had friends ranging from the groundskeeper to the General in charge.

He had served as the "Toastmaster General" at many, many, bowling, golf, and retirement dinners. He was an MC Emeritus.

As the Division's first Small Business Advisor (1961) under the direction of the SBA, he instituted and initiated procedures that were milestones then and standards today. He had drive, enthusiasm, and an effervescent personality. In both his professional and social activities, it reflected a can-do attitude.

John was born in Manhattan's Hell's Kitchen. He was the oldest of 13 children. His brother, Vincent, 84 and sister, Rose, survive him. John is also survived by a son, David, and daughter Jeanne Smith.

He celebrated his 95th birthday at a "bash" hosted by his son in Middletown, New Jersey.

At the party, a representative from the New England District read a letter

from which read in part... "John, you are a credit to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Your many friends speak with love and respect for you – from your professional work to your social ties. It is with pride that members and visitors to the District daily pass by your picture hanging in our Gallery of Distinguished Civilians."

(Editor's note: Mr. Murphy began his federal career in 1934 with the Civilian Conservation Corps at the Brooklyn Army Base and transferred to the Corps of Engineers in 1940. While serving as Administrative Assistant in the Operations Division, he also was the installation Manager for the Waltham Federal Center. Mr. Murphy became the Corps in New England's first Small Business Advisor in 1961, the position he held until his retirement in 1965. Mr. Murphy was also a founding member of what is now the New England District Golf League.

The citation in the Distinguished Civilian Gallery reads, "His integrity and industriousness earned him the respect and admiration of all who worked with him."



John Murphy receives his retirement certificate from Col. Edward G. Ribbs during his luncheon in 1965.

Dredging up the past . . .



Col. Brink Miller, Division Engineer, and construction workers peer down the opening of the underground tunnel during the groundbreaking ceremony at the Town Brook Local Protection Project, Quincy, Mass., in May of 1994.

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