

# Yankee Engineer

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*Building Strong*



MASSACHUSETTS



*Honoring Service members  
on Veterans Day  
Story on page 4*

# Yankee Voices



Col. Charles Samaris (Center) with Westford, Mass. Veterans

## *Congratulations*

...to **Karen Hoey**, Park Ranger at Hopkinton-Everett Lakes, and her husband **Bob** on the birth of their son **Nathaniel Liam Hoey**. He joins big sister **Hayden** in the family circle.

...to **Catherine LeBlanc** who was selected as the Work Environment Association's Employee of the Month for September.

## *Sympathy*

... to **Bill Scully**, Deputy District Engineer (Project Management), on the passing of his brother, **Bob Scully**, Nov. 2.

...to **Mike Andryuk**, Engineering/ Planning on the passing of his father, **John Peter Andryuk**, Nov. 12.

...to **Pat Devine**, Westover Resident Office, on the passing of her father-in-law, **John E. Devine, Jr.**, Nov. 14.

## *Words worth repeating*

"The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me."

- **Ayn Rand**

## *Commanding General's Veterans Day Message*



Corps Teammates,

I had the honor of visiting Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to present one of the great Soldiers of our Engineer Regiment with the Steel de Fleury medal. Sgt. Kyle Clifton was seriously injured when struck by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) while clearing a main supply route in support of the 101st Airborne Division in Afghanistan. He is one of more than 51,000 Service Members who have been wounded in action since 9/11 and the time I spent with Kyle and his family reminded me of the great bravery and determination demonstrated by all of our Wounded Warriors.

On Monday, Nov. 11, our Nation celebrated Veterans Day, a day to express our appreciation for the millions of men and women who have served or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. It is no coincidence that November is also Warrior Care Month, a time to reaffirm our commitment to the care and support for wounded, ill or injured service members and their families. To learn more about the important work the Army's Warrior Transition Command is doing for our Wounded Warriors, visit: <http://www.wtc.army.mil/>.

Former President and World War II Veteran John F. Kennedy once urged, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." Veterans Day offers us a chance to give back to our Soldiers, our Veterans and their families. Helping our Wounded Warriors and other Service Members transition out of the military into new careers and opportunities is a top priority for Army leadership, and I am very proud of the work USACE is doing in this regard...let's keep this going!

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the many men and women who have answered the call to defend and protect our Nation for more than 238 years. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the many Civilians who support our Soldiers. To those of you who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces, thank you for your dedication and sacrifice, and Happy Veterans Day.

Essayons...Building Strong...Army Strong!

Thomas P. Bostick  
Lieutenant General, US Army  
Commanding





# Commander's Corner: Happy Thanksgiving!

By Col. Charles P. Samaris  
District Commander



*"The idea for which this nation stands will not survive if the highest goal free man can set themselves is an amiable mediocrity. Excellence implies striving for the highest standards in every phase of life."*

*~ John W. Gardner (former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; Captain, USMC; former president, Carnegie Corporation and Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; founder of The White*

*House Fellowship and John Gardner Fellowship [Stanford University and U.C. Berkeley]; Presidential Medal of Freedom [1964].*

New England Team:  
Happy Thanksgiving!

We all have much to be thankful for...Family, Friends, a great New England District Team, and, lest we forget, a great Nation founded upon "self-evident" truths: "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." We are a free people...Amen!

Although many may take it for granted, Freedom is not easy. Freedom requires purposeful effort-individual, organizational, and governmental. But, at its core, a Nation's Freedom is built upon personal individual responsibility, principle, and standards. Personal standards... Amen!

Speaking of standards, I spent the past few days in Connecticut

and Western Massachusetts visiting many of our projects... both Operations and Construction. Our teams in the field – Rangers, Construction Representatives, Project Managers (to name just a few) – through tremendous purposeful effort, assume immense personal responsibility to accomplish a broad spectrum mission...to an incredibly high standard. They are at the pointy end of the spear, well representing the US Army Corps of Engineers where it counts the most... with the citizens of our great Nation. High standards...Amen!

Consistently high standards are crucial for the long-term success of any organization. Like Freedom, it all starts with the high personal standards of each individual. Of course, nobody's perfect...but as professionals we are standard-bearers. We must hold ourselves to a higher standard (and be more self-reflective/critical) than anyone else possibly could. Collectively, the result is an organization that lives and enforces high standards...Amen!

Maintaining high standards isn't always easy, but it's worth

the effort! If you're like me, sometimes amidst the daily battle you need a reminder. The indicators of potential is a simple set of standards that sit under the glass on my desk, and have for over 15 years. They've served me well.

So, Happy Thanksgiving! I am very thankful for you and your commitment to serving the people of New England and the Nation...and doing so to an incredibly high standard... Amen!

*"The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves."*

*~ Ray Kroc (McDonald's Corporation)*

## Indicators of Potential

- 1. Thinks two levels up.**  
Can see – or tries to see – the bigger picture. Sees things from other than his position, or that of his team. Tries to see issues from the perspective of his boss when approaching a mission. Doesn't see other teams as a bunch of dumb-asses, or less knowledgeable than he or his team.
- 2. Does more than is expected.**  
Doesn't do just what he is required to do. Volunteers to do things that help the entire organization. He has a very strong work ethic for the organization's benefit, not his own.
- 3. Is steady and unemotional.**  
The leader can "take the shot". Maturely accepts criticism; is not defensive when behavior, attitude, judgment, or area of responsibility are critiqued or corrected. Doesn't fight things that are strange or new, or different than how he'd like to do them or has done them. Knows what things are really important: integrity issues versus a difference of opinion on how to do things. Remains positive in the face of adversity. Doesn't let his emotions get the better of him; realizes that having a positive attitude is a combat multiplier.
- 4. Offers solutions to problems he can't handle.**  
The leader doesn't pass problems to his boss expecting or waiting for solutions, and/or new directions or policies. Never drops a dead squirrel on the boss' desk.
- 5. Gets along with, and can influence, his peers.**  
The leader is a TRUE team player (ties-in with being able to see the bigger picture); works well outside of his team; is able to influence his peers by being able to compromise and work around personal feelings.
- 6. Communicates effectively.**  
The leader is able to speak, brief, and write well. Can argue his case objectively and persuasively...yet not alienate those who disagree with him.
- 7. Has imagination and creativity.**  
The leader is able to present novel and innovative solutions to problems. Originates new ideas, methods, or approaches to existing or new policies or procedures.
- 8. Is totally dependable.**  
"Answers the mail" on ALL missions. "Finds Garcia." Little things don't slip. Thinks through the implications of general or specific guidance.
- 9. Ready now.**  
The leader is mature enough and proficient in his branch to the degree where he could immediately assume the duties of the next higher rank.

Essays!



## Commander honors Veterans during Observance Address

Col. Charles Samaris, New England District Commander, honored Veterans past and present during his keynote address at the Westford Veterans Day Observance on the Westford, Mass., town common, Nov. 11.

The observance was attended by many residents. "The observance of Veterans Day pays tribute to all American Veterans, past and present, during war and during peace – who for 238 years have defended our way of life," said Col. Samaris. "Their selfless dedication should not go unrecognized."

Col. Samaris said that the town common was a fitting place to celebrate Veterans Day. The town common is the central location of the town's many ceremonies and dedications in honor of local heroes. This year as part of its numerous tributes, the town dedicated the Westford 9/11 memorial on Sept. 11. "I deeply appreciate your invitation to share such an honored occasion with your historic town of Westford," he said.

According to the District Commander, Veterans Day is a time for reflection, appreciation and reverent celebration. "It's a time for the nation, and each of us – its citizens – to remember and appreciate our Veterans – who throughout our own history served and sacrificed in the United States Armed Forces to defend our great nation," he said. "It is a time to celebrate their many accomplishments, the most significant of which is winning, defending and preserving our independence, our liberty, our freedom."

Col. Samaris thanked the people of Westford on their commitment to recognizing their Veterans. "You actively and passionately appreciate and celebrate our Veterans," he said. "It is surely an indication of a community of great character and great national pride."

The colonel asked the Veterans in the audience to stand and be recognized. After, he thanked those who ever bought a meal or a cup of coffee for someone in uniform, or just shook their hand. "Have you ever sent a package or letter to 'Any Soldier?'" he asked. "I've received those! Appreciating our Veterans doesn't have to be a BIG thing, it just has to BE."

Col. Samaris concluded his talk by urging the audience to keep remembering what Veterans have done and continue to do for the country.

"Please remember today and nearly every day our great nation has men and women of all our armed services deployed all around the world,



Photos by Diallo Ferguson

Col. Charles Samaris addresses local residents at the town of Westford's Veterans Day observance.

putting their lives on the line to preserve our freedom... every-single-day."

Prior to the observance, Col. Samaris and his wife, Mrs. Kathleen Samaris, visited the Westford 9/11 Memorial.

Col. Samaris is a highly decorated war Veteran several times over, serving in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Desert Spring and Iraqi Freedom. He has commanded the Corps of Engineers, New England District since July 2011.

Veterans Day was formally known as Armistice Day. In 1918 on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month

an armistice – a temporary stop to hostilities – was declared by the Allied nations and Germany. To commemorate that occasion and the end of the "War to End all Wars", Nov. 11 officially became Armistice Day in 1919, and became a federal holiday in 1938.

In the aftermath of World War II and the Korean War, the name of the holiday changed to Veterans Day in 1954.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2011 there were 21.5 million Veterans in the United States.



Col. Charles Samaris marches with observance participants to Westford town common.

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes restoration of Misquamicut Beach

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs Office

The New England District is proposing to restore the Misquamicut Beach, Beach Erosion Control Project in Westerly, Rhode Island, to its authorized design profile after the project area was impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

Misquamicut Beach is a state beach located approximately halfway between Weekapaug Breachway and Watch Hill Point in Westerly. It is owned by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and managed by the Division of Parks and Recreation. It includes the beach, beach pavilion, public parking, and a public campground.

During the period of Oct. 28-31, 2012, Hurricane Sandy caused significant erosion along the Rhode Island shoreline. The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (PL 113-2) provides the Corps with the authority to restore Federally authorized and constructed shore protective works that were damaged as a result of Hurricane

Sandy. PL 113-2 restoration assistance is applicable to this project as public property (beach pavilion, parking lot, recreational facilities, campground, and Atlantic Avenue) is in danger of being severely damaged during any future storms.

Misquamicut Beach was initially constructed in late 1959 and early 1960 as a beach erosion control project. The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of July 14, 1960.

The beach erosion control project was designed and constructed to provide protection to the bathhouse, public parking lot, roadway (part of the evacuation route system) and utilities, and reduce backshore flooding during coastal storms. It also restored recreational aspects of the beach by providing usable dry beach width of approximately 150 feet shoreward of the mean high waterline.

"The proposed work involves the placement of sand fill at the Misquamicut Beach Erosion Control Project in order to restore the beach to its authorized design profile," said Project

Manager Christopher Hatfield, of the Corps' New England District, Engineering and Planning Division in Concord, Mass. The sand will be purchased from a local supplier, trucked to the site and spread on the beach using earth moving equipment.

The deposited sand will be placed in piles above mean high water and then graded to the elevations required. The project will require up to 90,000 cubic yards of sand to be placed on the beach.

A Draft Environmental Assessment for this work has been prepared and is available for review.

The public notice for this proposed work, with more detailed information, is available for review on the Corps website at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/PublicNotices.aspx>.

Public comments on this proposed work should be forwarded no later than Dec. 5, to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Engineering and Planning Division (ATTN: Mr. Christopher Hatfield), 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751 or by e-mail to [cenae-ep@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenae-ep@usace.army.mil).

## Contract awarded for maintenance dredging at Buttermilk Bay

by Timothy Dugan  
Public Affairs

Maintenance dredging of the federal project at Buttermilk Bay in Bourne, Mass., will be completed under the terms of a \$552,650.00 contract recently awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Work will be accomplished by Burnham Associates, Inc. of Salem, Mass. Construction is scheduled to start on or about Dec. 9, and take about four weeks to complete. The contract was awarded on Nov. 13.

Buttermilk Bay is located in the upper reaches of Buzzards Bay, between Bourne and Wareham, at the southern end of the Cape Cod Canal.

Access to Buttermilk Bay is through a two-mile natural channel extending from Buzzards Bay past Butler Cove.

"The work consists of dredging approximately 20,000 cubic yards of predominantly sandy sediment by mechanical dredge from the Buttermilk Bay 6-foot and 7-foot navigation channels," said New England District Project Manager Craig Martin. The channel is 100 feet wide, about 1.0 mile in length, and extends from Buzzards Bay, near the western entrance of Cape Cod Canal, to Taylor Point Marina in Bourne. The sandy dredged material will be transported by dump scow approximately 3 miles south to a nearshore dredge material placement site just south of Mashnee Dike, Phinney's Harbor in

Bourne. The last time the project was dredged was in 1984. For details on the Buttermilk Bay federal navigation project visit the Corps website at:

<http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Navigation/Massachusetts/ButtermilkBay.aspx>. A map is available at: <http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/Navigation/MA/BUT/BUTmap.pdf>.

All dredging operations will occur prior to Jan. 14 to minimize impact to natural resources in the area. The project will be managed by the Corps and all work will be accomplished under the supervision of a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.



Fran Donovan (from left), Maj. Charles Gray, Roger Mathurin, Larry Davis and Chris Mello during the presentation of the shadowbox created by Mello at Mathurin's retirement lunch.

## *Cape Cod Canal Team Member Roger Mathurin retires from federal service*

After 38 years of service, Roger Mathurin, supervisor for Cape Cod Canal's Marine Operations, made the decision to retire. Nearly 60 family, friends, coworkers and retirees traveled to the Brookside Country Club on Oct. 25, to celebrate Mathurin's career and wish him well.

Larry Davis, Canal Manager, served as Master of Ceremonies. Distinguished Civilian Gallery Member Francis Donovan also said a few words at the lunch. The team members from the Marine Operations Section presented Mathurin with a shadow box made by Chris Mello, a Marine Operations plaque and pictures of the Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge and the new Corps vessels.

The new retiree also received a gift card for J.P. Cycles and one from Cape Cod Harley as well as a Harley

Fleece Jacket from the attendees.

At the end of the official portion of the ceremony, Davis presented Mathurin with his official retirement certificate and pin.

Mathurin spent his entire civilian career at the Cape Cod Canal. Prior to becoming a supervisor for Marine Operations, he worked as a Marine Traffic Controller in the Marine Traffic Control Center (MTCC).

The MTCC, in concert with Mathurin and his team that operate the patrol vessels on the Canal, assist hundreds of vessels on the Canal every year. This year alone, they performed 583 rescues and assists.

In addition to his civilian service, Mathurin served his country faithfully in the U.S. Coast Guard, serving four years of active duty and 22 years in the Coast Guard Reserves. He retired

as a Senior Chief Boatswains Mate in March 2003.

Accompanying Mathurin to the lunch were his wife, Elizabeth, son Justin, sister Edna and her friend George, brother Lee and his wife Cathy.

In addition to Fran Donovan, Distinguished Civilian Gallery members that were present at Mathurin's lunch were Moe Beaudoin and Frank Ciccone.

Other retirees who attended were Carl Boutillier, Greg Buteau, Leo Cremoni, Fred Danhauser, Varoujan Garabedian, Dave Gove, Jane Heckler, Bob Orman, Bob Russeau and Frank Vilkas.

Mathurin plans to leave the chilly waters of Cape Cod for the warmer Houston, Texas area. Once there, he hopes to find employment in the Houston or Galveston area, on the water of course.





Left: Ella Minincleri, Sarita Martinez, Peter Hugh, Denise Kammerer-Cody and Grace Bowles dress up for the pot luck lunch.



Photos by Brian Murphy

Ruth Ladd dressed as a penguin.



Col. Samaris, dressed as a Red Sox fan, talks with other luncheon attendees.

## Halloween potluck hauntingly good fun

Who says you have to be a kid to have fun on Halloween? New England District team members channeled their creativity, dressed up and headed over to the Concord Park cafeteria on Oct. 31 to enjoy a Spooky Pot Luck lunch.

Trick or treat bags were replaced with heaping plates of deliciousness as the 35 participants rounded the crock pots and salad display looking for foodie goodies. Main entrees that were made and brought by participants included chicken parmesan, spaghetti squash casserole, a sausage dish, meatballs and soup. The haunted smorgasbord also boasted an impressive Greek salad, chips, pies, cakes, cookies, cupcakes and beverages.

Sarita Martinez dressed as a zombie for the event and sampled the cuisine. "The meatballs were my favorite," she said.

Peter Hugh came up with the idea of having the event and made it a reality.

"I saw an episode on 'Modern Family' (a prime time comedy) where one of the characters joined this new firm and heard that folks were going to dress up for Halloween," he said. "Not wanting to be the 'non-participant,' the character dressed up and to his dismay, only two others did. The possibility of embarrassing myself and my co-workers was high, so why not?"

Costumes were not mandatory to participate, but there were plenty of characters who were willing to get into the holiday spirit and dress up. "I was dressed as a World War II paratrooper," said Hugh. "About a third of the folks who brought in food had costumes. The memorable ones included a pirate, zombie, penguin, a Marvel Superhero, a cat with a long tail and two witches."

Even people who were too busy to stay for the lunch portion of the event got in on the fun and put on a costume. Ruth Ladd dressed as the penguin, but

could only stay long enough to put a smile on a few faces before having to leave. Which costume was her favorite? "Denise Kammerer-Cody's witch," she said.

Ella Minincleri, who dressed as the pirate, liked Kammerer-Cody's outfit, but favored Hugh's paratrooper. "Peter's costume was the most authentic," she said.

Everyone who was asked, said they had a great time. "The Halloween event lifted the pressure and stress from every day life," said Minincleri. "I think it should be a yearly event. It would give folks something to look forward to."

Martinez agreed. "Everyone had fun with the cooking, dressing up and decorating," she said. "Any festivities we can partake in is a BIG morale booster. I enjoyed every part of it. Maybe next year we'll add some scary music."

# Dredging up the past



Photo by C.J. Allen

District Commander Col. Thomas Koning (second from right) participates in the flag raising ceremony during the town of Concord, Mass., Veterans Day Observance on Nov. 11, 2003.

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