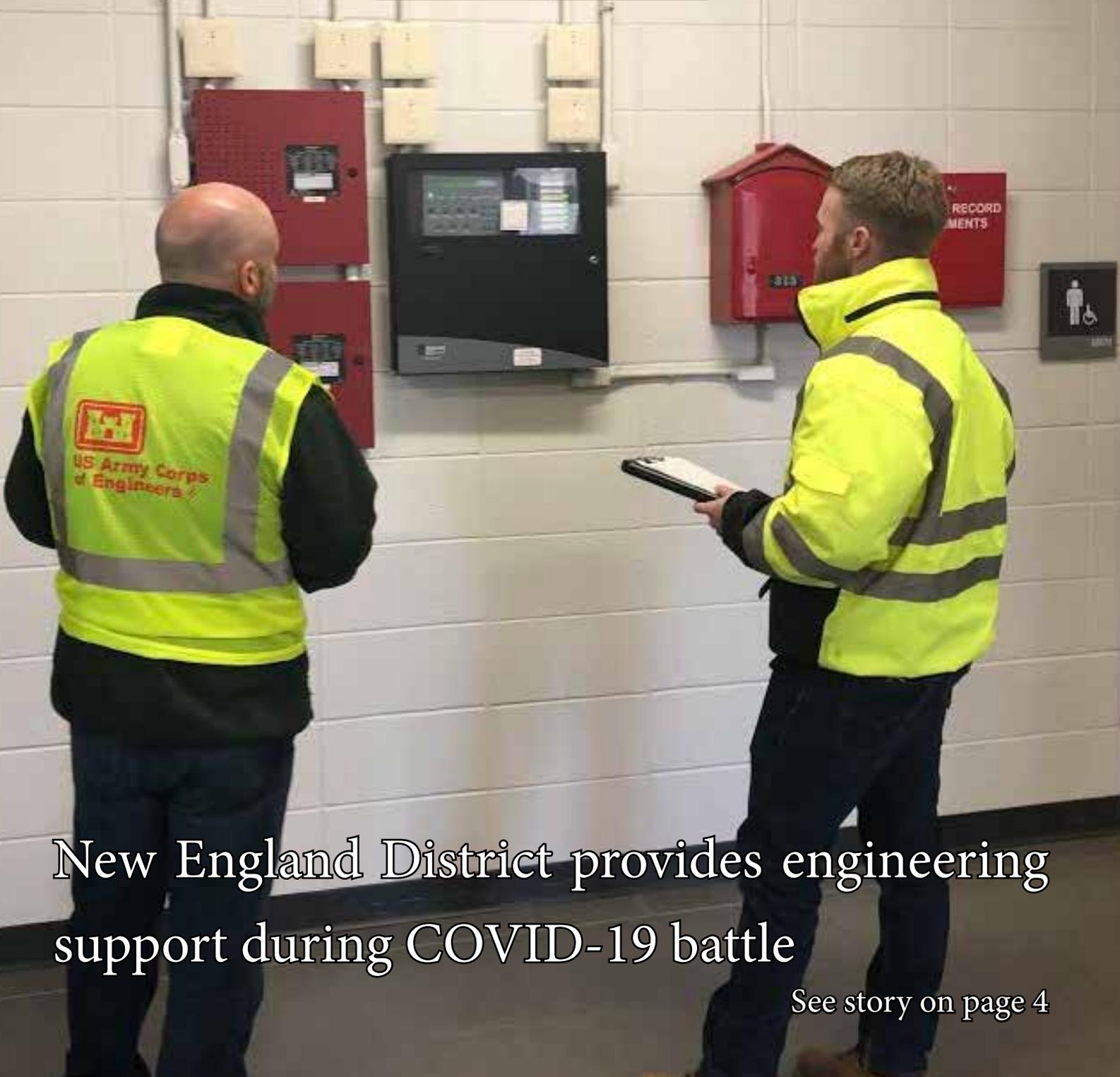




U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 53, No. 5 March-April 2020



New England District provides engineering support during COVID-19 battle

See story on page 4

Yankee Voices



Emily Pottier (left), Matthew Tessier, and Jean Swaley

Robert Webb retires from federal service

Robert Webb, Supply Technician, Logistics, stopped delivering free smiles and jokes with every package in the hallways of Concord Park when he decided to join the retirement community, Feb. 21. Webb had eight years of service.

Webb's co-workers held a retirement reception in the Logistics Office at Concord Park. More than a dozen people arrived to watch Col. William Conde, New England District Commander, present Webb with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service and his retirement certificate. Logistics Chief, Andrea Clotz-Pittman assisted in the presentation. Webb's wife, Joanne, accompanied him to the reception.

Prior to starting his career with Logistics, Webb worked in the Electrical Supply field. He served his country faithfully in the U.S. Navy as a Machinist 3rd Class on the USS Spiegel Grove.



Hodges Village Dam hosts Fire and Ice event

The team at Hodges Village Dam found a fun way for kids to while away a few hours in February with a science, technology, engineering and math event called, "Mid-Winter Fire and Ice."

The program, held at Hodges Village Dam, Feb. 8 ran from 6 to 8 p.m., and had two dozen attendees. The team decorated the event area with lights and candles nestled in ice candle holders. Activities scheduled for the evening included an illuminated nature walk, winter trivia, star-gazing under the near-full moon and winter/wildlife stories by flashlight while sipping hot cocoa by a campfire.

"Everyone stayed quite a while," said Park Ranger and event coordinator, Jamie Kordack. "As a matter of fact, some came before 6 p.m., and many stayed past 8 p.m."

Both Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam host free programs year round. For more information on upcoming events, follow them on Facebook or go to the New England District's recreation page on the web at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/> to view all recreational opportunities.



Corps of Engineers Regulatory program in New England immediately implements electronic procedures due to COVID-19

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

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Regulatory permitting program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District continues to operate while still complying with national, state, and local recommendations for social distancing to curb the spread of the virus and has immediately implemented electronic procedures.

The Regulatory office at District headquarters in Concord, Massachusetts, and project offices in Maine and Vermont are closed to the public until further notice. However, the Regulatory staff is processing existing actions and new submittals electronically. Office visits are postponed until further notice.

Meetings will be conducted virtually, if possible, and the need to conduct site visits will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Meetings and site visits will be scheduled or rescheduled when exposure risks are lower and guidance allows.

The Regulatory Division is transitioning to an electronic submittal and evaluation process for all correspondence, which includes but is not limited to: permit applications, enforcement and compliance actions, mitigation, and jurisdictional determinations. Please send all new Section 10/404/103/408 applications and other correspondence via e-mail to one of the addresses provided below based on the state in which the work is proposed:

cenae-r-ct@usace.army.mil
cenae-r-nh@usace.army.mil
cenae-r-ma@usace.army.mil
cenae-r-ri@usace.army.mil
cenae-r-me@usace.army.mil
cenae-r-vt@usace.army.mil

Note that the Corps utilizes a coordinated process with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES), and receives applications from NH DES. Therefore, applicants in New Hampshire are advised to follow the existing process, and not e-mail new applications to the above address.

If the telephone is the preferred method of communication, call a project manager directly if working with them on a particular project or Regulatory's general phone numbers:

District Headquarters, Concord, MA (CT, MA, NH, RI)
(978) 318-8862



Wetlands in Quincy, Massachusetts.

File photo

Maine Project Office (207) 623-8367
 Vermont Project Office (802) 872-2893 or
 (978) 318-8860

If it is necessary to provide a paper copy of any submittal, please also provide a digital copy to enable the staff to evaluate the application as efficiently as possible. Please communicate with the staff if unable to provide a digital copy, as allowances will be made. If determined necessary, please mail paper copies to the following addresses and include the project manager's name (if assigned) on the first line:

Regulatory Division
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
 696 Virginia Road
 Concord, MA 01742-2751

Regulatory Division
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
 442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 350
 Augusta, ME 04330

Regulatory Division
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
 11 Lincoln Street, Room 210
 Essex Junction, VT 05452

Please consult the Regulatory website (<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory>) for additional information and operational updates. This procedure is effective immediately. If you have any questions, please contact Greg Penta at gregory.r.penta@usace.army.mil or (978) 318-8862.

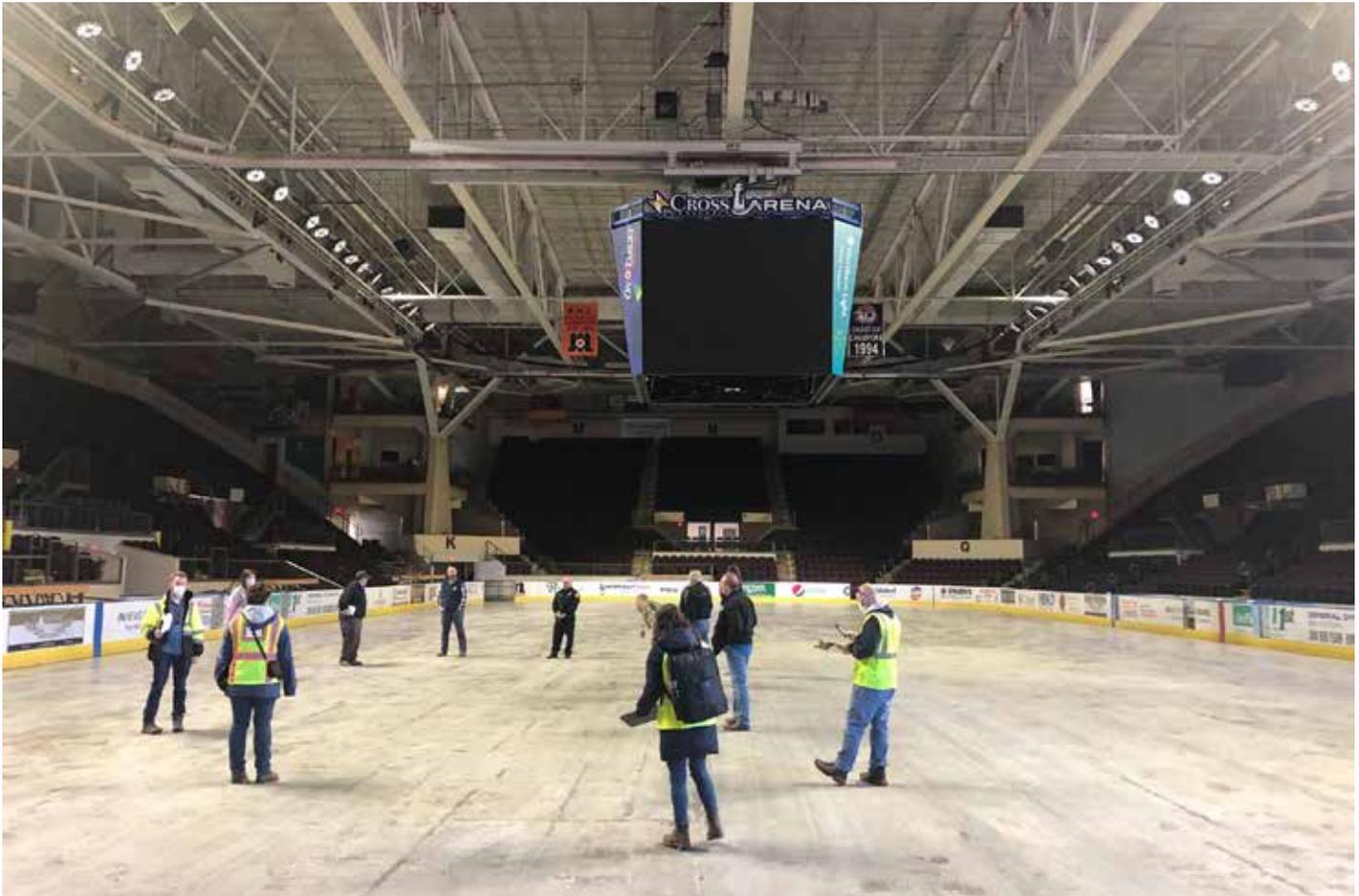


Photo by Jeanine Cline

New England District team members perform a site assessment at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland, to address possible conversion of existing buildings into alternate care facilities (ACF) in Maine, April 8.

New England District provides engineering support during COVID-19 battle

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District (NAE) is not just standing idly by as the novel Coronavirus known as COVID-19 sweeps through our cities and towns. On the contrary, NAE has gone on the offensive.

New England District personnel from various disciplines to include engineers, architects, economists, contracting officers, and construction representatives responded to short-notice calls from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, and New Hampshire state governments to provide planning support to create additional hospital bed space.

Since March 23, members of the Alternate Care Facilities (ACF) team assessed 22 state-identified surge locations in five states. Each time, they delivered expert recommendations

on electrical, HVAC, space layouts, and service-related requirements. In parallel, design teams, project managers, contracting officers, and legal counsel have been posturing to respond rapidly when and if states request NAE support to build out those facilities.

"We're leaning forward, ready to support during this unprecedented situation," said New England District Commander, Col. William Conde.

From the time that COVID-19 first began spreading nationwide, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) stood willing and able to assist in this time of uncertainty.

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is prepared to assist the nation in a time of crisis to the very best of its capabilities," said Col. Conde. "We have received a FEMA Mission

Assignment (MA) to provide initial planning and engineering support nationwide to address possible medical facility shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the planning mission assignment, NAE teams are providing planning and assessments for the possible conversion of existing buildings into ACFs."

During federal emergency declarations, USACE is the federal government's lead public works and engineering support agency to FEMA and the coordinated federal response; the Corps of Engineers is uniquely qualified to address this engineering challenge given its extensive experience building medical facilities for its stakeholders.

New England District personnel are working closely with FEMA and the governors from the states

of New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to perform site assessments of strategically chosen facilities to determine if they are suitable to convert into ACFs in support the emergency medical response to COVID-19.

“This effort is helping to shape future anticipated mission assignments for ACF support to individual states and hopefully free up much needed bed space in existing hospitals,” said Col. Conde.

As of March 25, USACE has received six FEMAMission Assignments (MAs) totaling approximately \$361 million, and has 15,000 personnel engaged or supporting our nationwide response effort.

In addition to supporting the New England states, the District is trying to do its part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. On March 20, the District began the process of an orderly shutdown of all its campgrounds to protect against the further spread of the virus. Visitor centers, beaches, special events, and sponsored events such as interpretive programs, Earth Day events, public meetings, and other public gatherings at District-managed facilities have also been closed and/or put on hold until further notice.

New England District’s Regulatory permitting program continues to operate in compliance with national, state, and local recommendations for social distancing.

While the Regulatory office at District headquarters in Concord, Massachusetts, and field offices in Maine and Vermont are closed to the public, personnel are processing existing actions and new submittals electronically.

As the fight to eradicate COVID-19 intensifies, the Corps of Engineers, New England District will continue to offer its engineering expertise where it is needed, when it is needed.



Photo by Jeanine Cline

Angela Frisino (left), Lee Thibodeau, Adam Stewart and Michelle Jellison from the New England District arrive to perform a site assessment at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland, to address possible conversion of existing buildings into alternate care facilities (ACF) in Maine, April 8.



Photo by Bryan Paul

Matt Tessier from the New England District (third from left), discusses the layout and mock up created by a local hospital with officials during a site assessment of the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, to address possible conversion of existing buildings into alternate care facilities (ACF) in Maine, April 8.



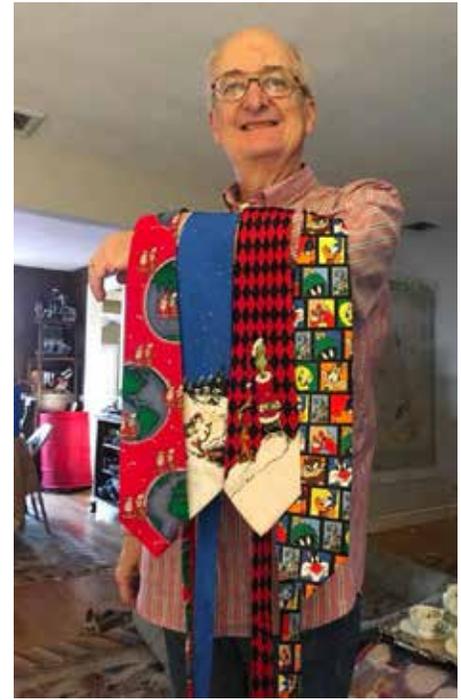
Photo by Bryan Paul

A Massachusetts hospital staff member demonstrates a piece of equipment as Matthew Tessier, Emily Pottier of the New England District and other hospital staff look on. The demonstration was part of a site assessment to address possible conversion of existing buildings into alternate care facilities (ACF) in Massachusetts, March 25.



Phillip Nimeskern (left) out on a site visit during a recent regulatory conference.

Photos provided by Regulatory Division



Phillip Nimeskern shows off some of his colorful ties.

District holds first ever virtual retirement ceremony

In these uncertain times, the New England District team has learned to adapt and evolve in the way it does business. That often means little to no contact with co-workers other than by phone, e-mail or video. Some of the events that bring the District team together such as Founder's Day, retirements and other celebrations have had to be temporarily suspended.

When it was time for Phillip Nimeskern, Permit Project Manager for Regulatory Division, to retire, there was no way his co-workers were going to let him go without publicly recognizing his 32 years of distinguished service. So they got creative and held the first ever virtual retirement ceremony at the New England District, April 29 via WebEx. Dozens of Nimeskern co-workers, friends and retirees signed on to wish him well.

Tammy Turley, Chief, Regulatory Division, welcomed everyone to the District's first virtual retirement and introduced Col. William Conde, New England District Commander. Col. Conde thanked Ruthann Brien and Christine Jacek for tackling the logistics

of the one-of-a-kind ceremony. The District Commander also thanked Nimeskern's wife, Lynn, for sharing him with the District for the last 32 years. He then turned his remarks to the guest of honor. "Phil, thank you for your 32 years to our family," he said. "The relationships you have formed with our stakeholders are phenomenal. I wish you a wonderful retirement. Please come back and visit."

Col. Conde, assisted by Maj. Mark Gillman, Deputy Commander, presented Nimeskern with his retirement certificate and the Civilian Service Commendation Award. Nimeskern received the award for his outstanding work as a Project Manager. "For nearly 32 years, his commitment to excellence in service significantly contributed to the success of the Regulatory Program in New England," read Col. Conde. "Phillip has been an essential member of the New England District Regulatory Division and a trusted advisor to colleagues, our agency partners and the regulated community."

The citation goes on to praise Nimeskern for providing technical

expertise as a marine biologist in the Marine Analysis Section and for providing expert collaborations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service."

Turley followed Col. Conde and Maj. Gillman and shared a personal story of how Nimeskern made his famous scones for her welcome tea that was held on her first day of work. "They were the best scones I ever had," she said. "You are a wonderful Regulator and a wonderful person."

The Regulatory chief ended her remarks by praising his expertise as a marine scientist. "It's been an absolute pleasure to get to know you," she said. "Thank you for all you do."

Barbara Newman, Nimeskern's supervisor for the last four years, said he has been a source of amazing amounts of information about everything you ever wanted to know – especially oceans, sea life and dredging.

Newman talked about Nimeskern's career after obtaining a bachelor of science degree in Marine Biology in 1977 and a master's of science degree in Marine Studies in 1980. Prior to

joining the New England District in 1988, he was a research biologist at Battelle Ocean Sciences.

Nimeskern's interests are almost as varied as the species of fish in the ocean. He is a certified diver and has been exploring ocean depths all over the world since 1975. According to Newman, he also dances. He and his wife have performed Morris dancing, a type of folk dancing, in parks in New York and Boston.

Nimeskern is also a singer and is a member of the Old Howard Troupe, which performs vaudeville-type songs. "He also is a bass singer who has performed in various music clubs," said Newman. "On occasion, he recites poetry from the late 1800s at these events."

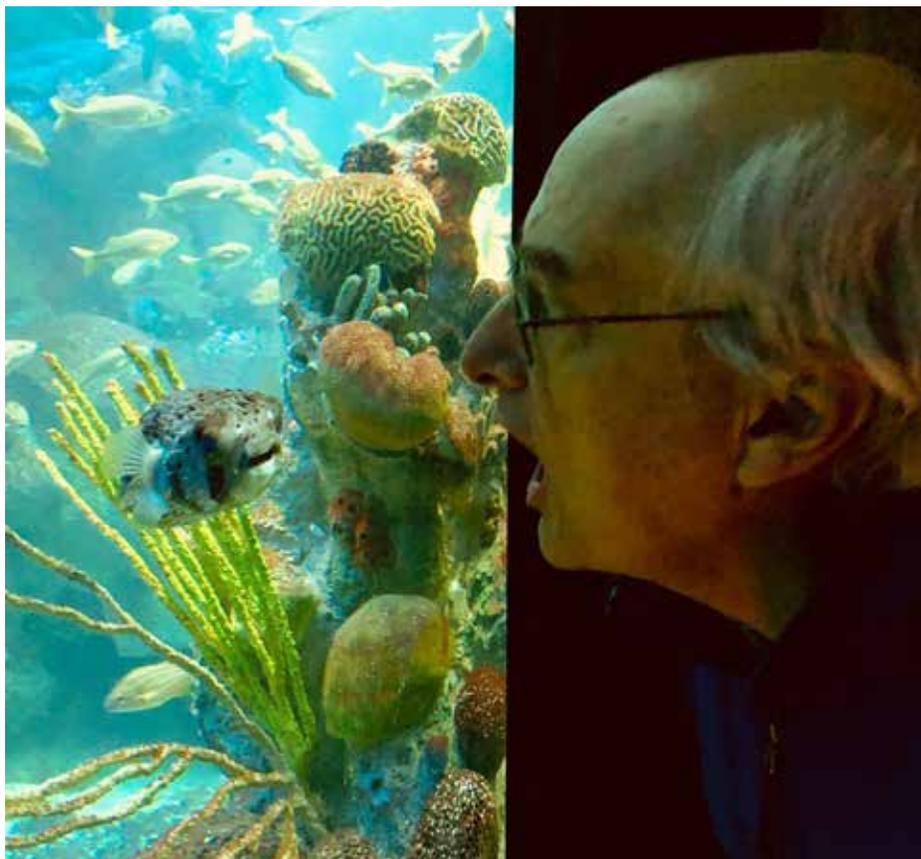
In addition to his work as a Permit Project Manager, Nimeskern also deployed twice to support the Corps recovery missions during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and Hurricane Ike in 2008. During his deployment, Nimeskern installed blue tarps used for temporary roofing.

"He is a well-rounded, really intelligent person," said Newman. "He has contributed greatly to our division and will be missed. I am sure, Phil, that you will continue to enjoy your multifaceted life with Lynn and I wish you the best."

Co-workers who shared stories and wished Nimeskern well were Ruthann Brien, Crystal Gardner, Norm Farris, Alan Anacheka-Naseman and Paula Kullberg. Retirees Jennifer McCarthy, Ruth Ladd, Tom Fredette and Jim Crawford also spoke and welcomed their friend into the retirement community.

Brien told Nimeskern that she had a gift card to send him on behalf of Regulatory and the attendees. She told him that a more traditional send-off lunch would be held in the future when it was safe to do so.

Nimeskern said he was privileged



Phillip Nimeskern marvels at a fish during a visit to an aquarium.

to have worked with the Regulatory team. He talked about his different experiences, to include his time as Regulator of the Day, and how that gave him the opportunity to talk with many people on many Regulatory subjects.

Regarding his one of a kind retirement ceremony, Nimeskern seemed pleased at the turn out. "So

many people, so many good memories," he said. "Thanks for the send-off. It's the first of its kind, but let's hope we don't have to do it again."

He concluded the event by thanking everyone again for coming. "You have been my work family for half my life," he said. "Thank you and see you around."



Phillip Nimeskern and his wife, Lynn, enjoy some down time.

Dredging up the past



Scott Acone (left) presents Ken Paton with a Bunker Hill certificate during Paton's retirement celebration in this January 2, 2013 photo.

Photo by Brian Murphy

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