

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong

®



New England District Commander joins
Plymouth's 400th Anniversary celebration

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Col. John Atilano II and Dame Karen Pierce, DCMG

Yankee Voices

Sympathy...

... to the family of Real Estate retiree Barbara Duffin who passed away Sept. 3. Helen Mahdi, Barbara's daughter, currently works in Real Estate Division.

Duffin retired in 2016 with 41 years of federal service. Prior to joining Real Estate, she was part of the Finance and Accounting (RMO) team.

In addition to her day-to-day duties, Duffin also participated in recovery missions for USACE, to include deployments in support of the Hurricane Katrina recovery and to Joplin, Missouri after a series of devastating tornadoes affected the area.



Photos by the Cape Cod Canal

Bobber the Water Safety Dog visited with visitors both young and old during the 107th anniversary celebration.

Cape Cod Canal celebrates Canal's 107th anniversary

The Cape Cod Canal team celebrated the 107th anniversary of the opening of the Cape Cod Canal with the public, July 29.

The Cape Cod Canal Visitor's Center was open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and offered exhibits, a film and an indoor scavenger hunt. The celebration carried outside where the team set up a tent from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Special guest Bobber the Water Safety Dog greeted visitors as they played ring toss, pin the bridge on the canal and a canal trivia prize wheel. Other activities included birthday card making and a chalk walk.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) purchased the Cape Cod Canal from financier August Belmont in 1927 for \$11.5 million. Prior to the sale, the U.S. Government took over the Canal during World War II. The Sagamore and Bourne bridges, built by USACE, were completed in 1935.

Words Worth Repeating

"Do not be afraid of defeat. You are never so near victory as when defeated in a good cause."

- Henry Ward Beecher

"Always be a little kinder than necessary."

- James M. Barrie



Commander's Corner:

Commemorating 20th anniversary the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon

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



Sept. 11, 2021 marks the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Thousands of people lost their lives on that horrific day when terrorists slammed two planes into the twin towers and one into the Pentagon.

A fourth plane crashed in a Shanksville, Pennsylvania field after brave passengers and crew members attempted to re-take the plane. The passengers on Flight 93 sacrificed themselves to save the lives of others.

If the terrorists were trying to strike fear into the hearts of Americans, their plan failed miserably. There are many stories of bravery on that tragic day. As New Yorkers were running away from the World Trade Center to get to safety, many police and firefighters ran towards, and into, the buildings to try to get people out. Unfortunately, many of those heroes lost their lives in their attempt to rescue others when the towers fell.

According to Army. mil, at the Pentagon, Lt. Col. Ted Anderson, Staff Sgt. Christopher Braman, Sgt. Maj. Ron Schexnayder and many others helped civilians and soldiers out of the Pentagon to safety when a plane slammed into the building.

For those of you who are new to the New England District, you need to know that many of our own teammates rushed

down to Ground Zero the day after the attacks to do anything and everything necessary to assist the people of New York. Two of our tugs and the crews of the M/V Wampanoag and the M/V Cataumet joined the growing fleet of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers vessels in shuttling personnel and dignitaries to disaster sites. And that's not all. Nearly 40 of our people from most of our Divisions and separate offices selflessly provided their services and expertise to aid in the disaster recovery operations. Thank you all!

I also want to thank those who stayed behind to backfill and support the work here at the District Headquarters and field offices, as well as supporting the work in New York. Most notably, our Emergency Operations Center staff worked around the clock from the day of the attack until the threat diminished. Everyone's ability to quickly adapt and absorb the extra work allowed us to continue to deliver the program. I am

very proud to be a part of an organization that has a legacy of selfless service that continues today. We should never forget what happened on Sept. 11, 2001. I invite you to take a moment to pause, reflect and remember all those who lost their lives.

Although we

mourn those taken that day, the terrorists didn't win. Our flag flies stronger than ever.

Thank you all for what you do each and every day for New England and the nation.

Essayons!



A USACE Team member, FBI and ATF personnel observe the remnants of the World Trade Center. Photo by F:T:Eyre

New England District Commander joins Plymouth's 400th Anniversary celebration

Col. John Atilano II, Commander, New England District, joined the British Ambassador to the United States, Dame Karen Pierce, DCMG and federal, state and local officials in Plymouth, Massachusetts to kick off a two-day Maritime Salute to Plymouth's 400th anniversary, Sept. 4 at Plymouth Memorial Park.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (USACE) dredged Plymouth Harbor in time for the celebration, allowing the MAYFLOWER II and other ships to navigate the harbor.

Col. Atilano was one of several guest speakers at the event which included Dame Pierce, Sen. Edward Markey, and Cong. Bill Keating.

"It is my honor to join you today at this ceremony celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage, the founding of Plymouth Colony and the historic interaction between the Wampanoag and English peoples," he said.

Col. Atilano mentioned that navigation was the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' earliest Civil Works mission.



Col. John Atilano II (right) speaks with event attendees before the ceremony.

Photos by Sally Regione

"It endures today as we provide the nation with safe and reliable waterborne transportation systems including channels and harbors for movement of commerce, national security needs, and recreation," he said.

The relationship between USACE and the people of Plymouth goes back more than two centuries. On May 26, 1824, Congress appropriated

\$20,000 for USACE to initiate river and harbor work to repair Plymouth Beach to prevent the harbor from being destroyed.

"Since that initial project at America's first permanent settlement, New England District has completed more than 170 navigation projects, including 11 deep draft ports and adjacent waterways," said Col. Atilano.

In 2018, USACE received funding to dredge Plymouth Harbor.

Col. Atilano said that significant cooperative efforts with the federal resource agencies and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts enabled USACE to complete an environmental assessment, develop contract plans and specifications, and issue a solicitation for bids in about half the time the process would usually take.

The project, totally just over \$9 million began in November 2018 and was completed in February 2020, in time for the planned 400th anniversary celebrations that had to be put on hold due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

"A total of 379,291 cubic yards



Col. John Atilano II addresses the audience during Plymouth's 400 Anniversary celebration.



Col. John Atilano II visits Plymouth Rock during his trip to Plymouth, Massachusetts for its 400th anniversary.

of sediment were removed from the federal project – that’s about 30,000 dump trucks – restoring Plymouth Harbor to its authorized and maintained dimensions,” he said.

The dredging project not only allowed the safe return of the MAYFLOWER II to its dock, but it will also go a long way toward keeping the local communities, the recreation, and the Commonwealth competitive within the maritime industry.

The New England District Commander concluded his remarks by expressing appreciation to USACE’s partners.

“This project would not have been possible without the collaborative relationship with our state, federal and tribal partners and local industry who came together to accomplish a significant amount of work under a very tight schedule,” he said. “I thank you once again for your dedication and perseverance in getting the job done.”

Other activities that took place during the two-day event included music, exhibits, a lighted boat parade, public boarding of four ships, children’s story time and various exhibits and activities.

New England District hosts press conference at Sagamore Recreation Area

Col. John Atilano II, New England District Commander, and the Cape Cod Canal team hosted Sen. Ed Markey and Congr. Bill Keating during a press conference, Aug. 25 at the Sagamore Recreation Area.

The press conference was called to talk about possible funding for bridge repairs.

Col. Atilano pointed out that the Cape Cod Canal bridges are just two elements of a much larger, multipurpose project for USACE -- the Cape Cod Canal Federal Navigation Project.

“The Cape Cod Canal is a vital federal navigation channel that enables commerce throughout New England, New York and the East Coast,” said Col. Atilano.

The District Commander said that on a typical weekend in the summer, the Cape Cod Canal team ensures that hundreds of large commercial carriers and recreational vessels can safely navigate this 17.5-mile waterway.

“There are also several recreation and environmental stewardship elements to this project, and I am so appreciative of our team’s hard work to keep it all well maintained and available for the enjoyment of the public,” he said.

During the press conference, Col. Atilano expressed his gratitude for the continued support the New England

District receives from its federal partners.

“I sincerely want to thank Senator Markey, Congressman Keating and our other elected officials for their continued support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and for supporting all of our studies and projects across Massachusetts as we address each of our mission areas – navigation, flood risk management, recreation, environmental restoration and stewardship,” he said. “We appreciate all that Congress continues to do to balance the ongoing and ever-increasing needs we have to operate and maintain all our aging infrastructure across the country, while making those hard decisions regarding where to allocate federal funding.”

While down on the Cape, Col. Atilano wanted to express his gratitude to the Cape Cod Canal team.

“I want to thank our Cape Cod Canal team not just for hosting us today, but for the fantastic work they do 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to ensure the safety of all navigation through the canal,” he said. “We have the brightest and most capable minds doing extraordinary work; this mission, as with all our projects and programs, would not be possible without our people.”



Col. John Atilano II provides remarks during a press conference held at the Sagamore Recreation Area.

Photo by Elizabeth Gosselin

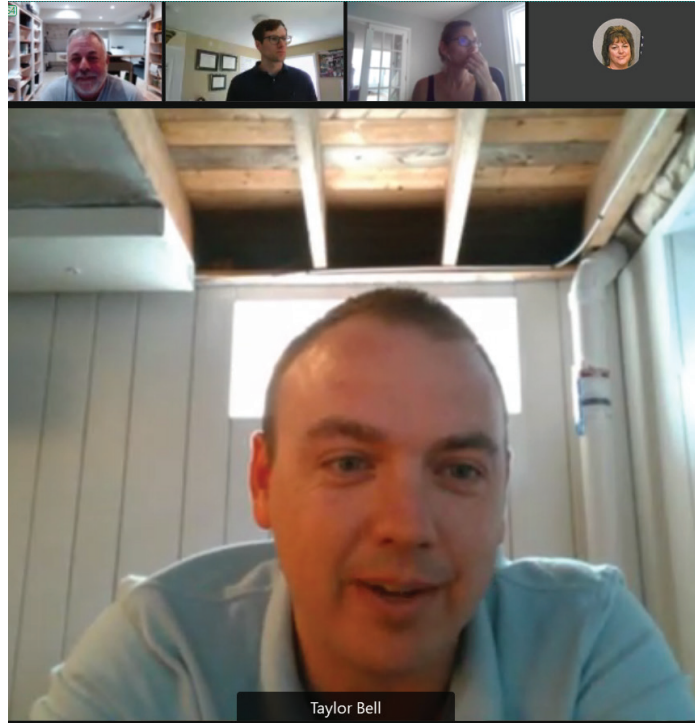
New England District Regulatory Division hosts General Mitigation Course

New England District's Regulatory Division hosted a four-day virtual General Mitigation Course, Sept. 13-16.

"This course was held as a refresher training for Regulatory Project Managers and was centered around the 2000 federation mitigation rule for Regulatory Project Managers," said Taylor Bell, Regulatory. Bell served as one of the speakers during the course.

About 35 Regulatory team members from the District registered. Bell said although the refresher training was geared towards New England District Project Managers, they also invited counterparts from the states of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Guest speakers included Mike Rolband of Resource Protections Group, Inc. and Matt Gause and Greg DeYoung of Westervelt.

USACE instructors were Todd Tugwell, Bell, Justin Elkins, Paul Minkin, Katie Wainwright, Matt Harris, Valerie Layne, Michelle Mattson, Cory Wilson, Suzanne Anderson and Jean Richardson. More than 35 topics ranging from the Mitigation Rule Overview to Banks and In-Lieu Fee Programs took place over the course. In addition, attendees participated in activities and questions and answer periods.



Regulatory Division's Taylor Bell speaks with other course participants during the four day General Mitigation Course. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the course was held virtually.

District Commander, dignitaries visit Boston Harbor project

New England District Commander Col. John A. Atilano II accompanied Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides, and Massachusetts Port Authority CEO Lisa Weiland on a visit to the Boston Harbor Deepening Project, Aug. 24.

"We visited Great Lakes Dredge and Dock drill boat



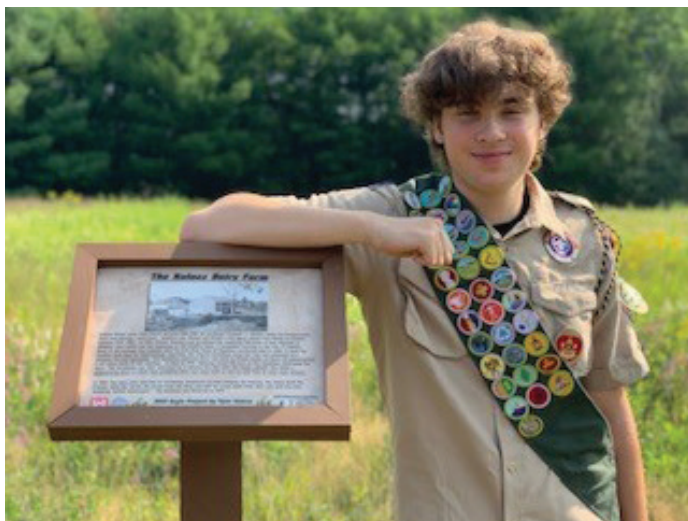
Photos by Joshua Qualls, Governor's Press Office

Col. John Atilano II (right) speaks with Governor Charlie Baker during their visit to the Boston Harbor Deepening Project.



Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker and Col. John Atilano II, District Commander join their federal and state partners and District team members on a tour of Boston Harbor.

Apache and dredge New York as work progressed to complete the deepening of the harbor," said Col. Atilano. "In addition to discussing the Boston Harbor project, we talked about ongoing Muddy River construction and future studies to address flooding in the city of Boston and a watershed study of the greater Boston area."



Tyler Kulacz and his finished product.



Tyler Kulacz (left) and volunteers digging to install post for sign.

Photos by Jennifer Kulacz



Leveling the sign post before installing the sign.

Local Teen Completes Eagle Scout Project at the Franklin Falls Dam

by Karen Tryon

Park Ranger, Franklin Falls & Blackwater Dam

In February of 2019, Tyler Kulacz a Boy Scout out of Troop 50 of Bridgewater, New Hampshire, contacted the Franklin Falls Project staff to share and hopefully get approval for an Eagle Scout project he wanted to complete.

"I am writing to ask permission from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to work in the Old Hill Village on my Eagle project," he wrote. "Having grown up in the town of Hill, Old Hill Village is a big part of my life and is an amazing place!

Old Hill Village has a number of brown posts that have a number and a name of the land it marks, these are considered historical markers. The problem is that you need a specific guidebook that tells you what these markers really mean, there is no way of knowing without that guide. My plans is to lead the project with other Scouts and members of the Hill Historical Society and to raise money to produce new markers with a picture and a write up of the location, then placing them by the historical posts. Thank you for your consideration."

A little background of the town of Hill, New Hampshire: the town was built along the Pemigewasset River in 1753 but in 1937 residents of Hill Village were notified that their town

of Hill was to be relocated to accommodate the construction of the Franklin Falls Dam.

By 1940 the citizens of Hill formed an association, purchased land, and began planning the relocation of their town which was completed in 1941. The historical signs that Tyler was proposing to create would educate visitors to the Old Hill Village on the significance of the land and the location of these historical buildings.

Obtaining approval from the Eagle Scout Board and the United States Army Corps of Engineers on his Eagle Scout project was only the first step. Tyler also had to price out materials for the signs, fundraise for those materials, research and design the signs, work with a local print shop to get the signs printed and organize and recruit volunteers for workdays to install the 16 new signs.

Tyler's work ethic through all these steps was outstanding. He attended numerous meetings to fundraise and gain awareness for his project and even through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic Tyler never stopped working hard to complete his project. All his hard work paid off on Aug. 7 when he installed his final sign.

The staff at Franklin Falls are very appreciative to Tyler and all his hard work in creating these signs.

Dredging up the past

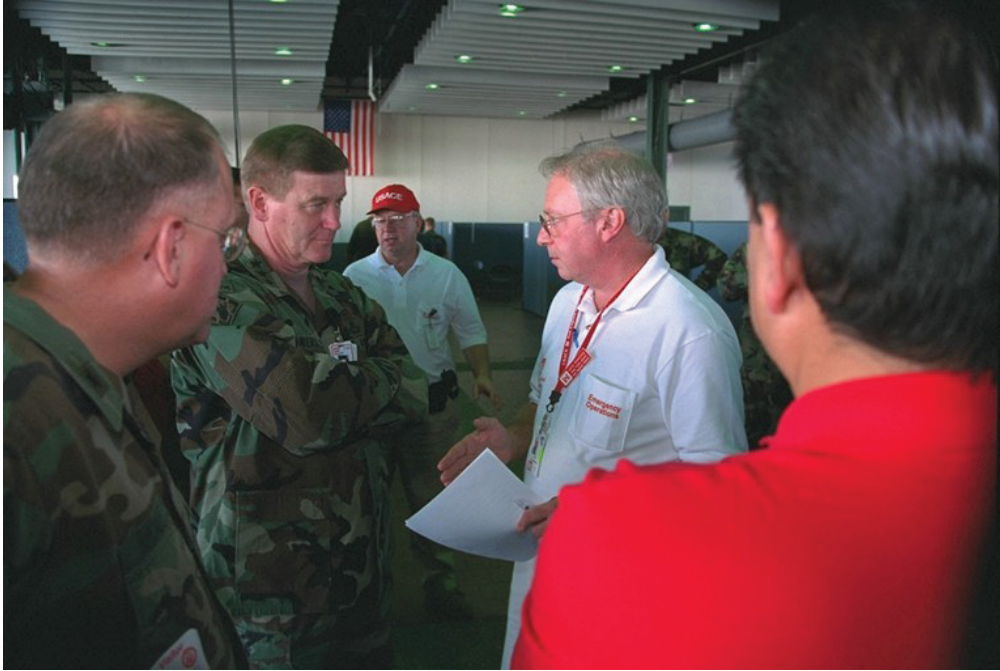


Photo by F.T. Eyre, USACE HQ photographer

Larry Rosenberg (right) Chief of Public Affairs, New England District, briefs Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers, during the World Trade Center Recovery mission in this Sept. 2001 photo.

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